



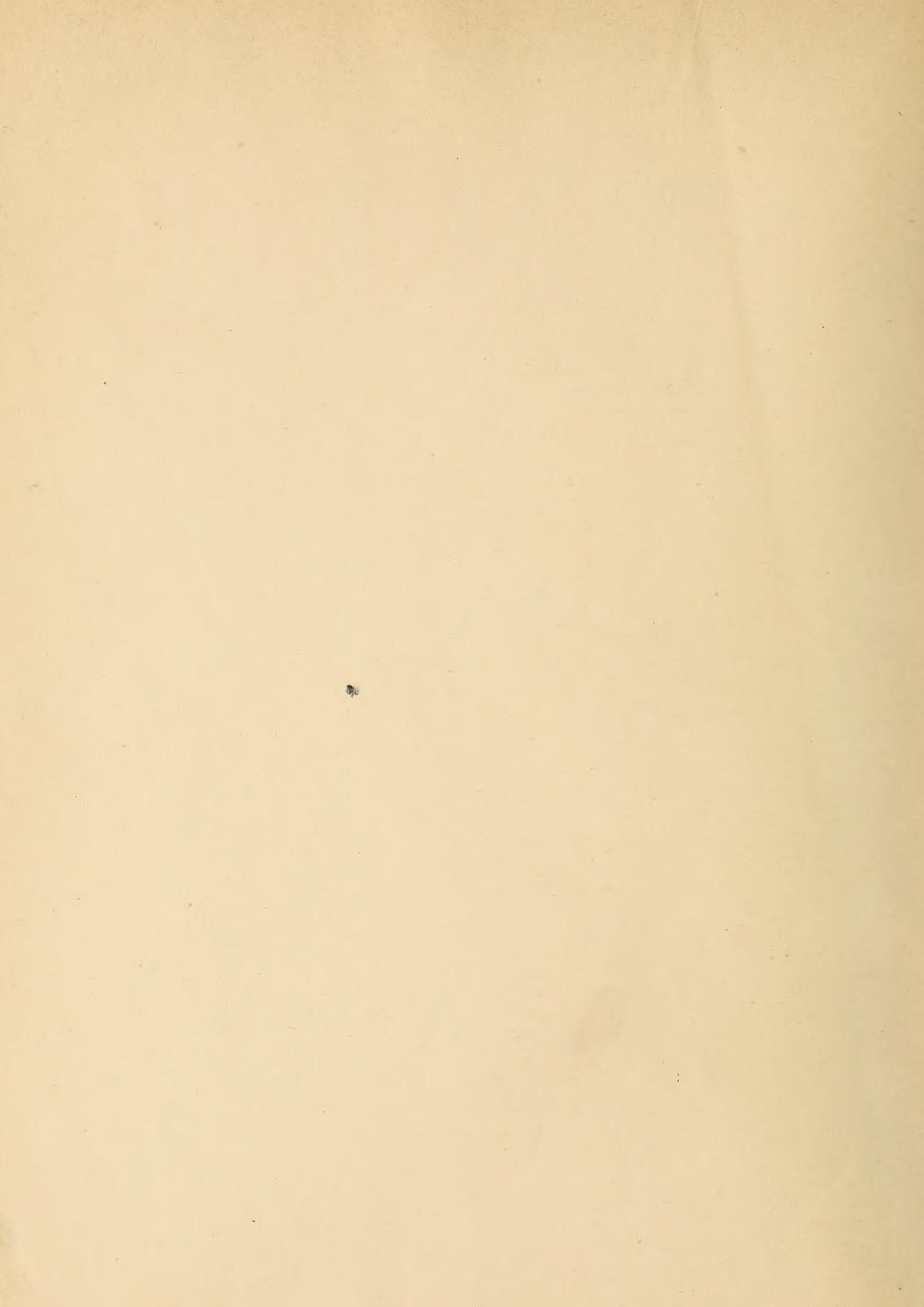
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ORIGINAL PORTRAITS

AND

CARICATURE ETCHINGS



A SERIES  
OF  
ORIGINAL PORTRAITS  
AND  
CARICATURE ETCHINGS

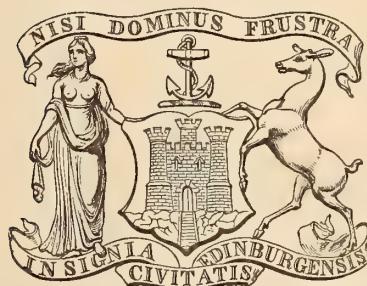
BY THE LATE  
JOHN KAY  
MINIATURE PAINTER, EDINBURGH

WITH  
Biographical Sketches and Illustrative Anecdotes

NEW EDITION

VOL. I.

CONTAINING PLATES I. TO CLXX.



EDINBURGH: ADAM AND CHARLES BLACK  
MDCCCLXXVII

[ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.]

6<sup>7</sup>/<sub>6</sub>9  
14.11.90  
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*Printed by R. & R. CLARK, Edinburgh.*

## ADVERTISEMENT.

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In considering the best mode of re-issuing so popular a work as KAY'S PORTRAITS, it has been thought advisable rather to adhere to the original text than to venture on any material alteration or enlargement. The attempt might indeed have been made to bridge over the interval that has elapsed since the Portraits were first published, and to indicate the relation in which the personal records and incidents stand to the present time. But the advantage of this is doubtful, and it would seriously alter the character of the work. The preferable course has therefore been adopted of presenting the Biographical Sketches in their original form, with such slight revision as has appeared essential.

It is almost unnecessary to invite attention to a work which is so well known, and the interest in which, after the lapse of nearly forty years, still continues unabated. Not only has it the fascination of gossiping biography, blended with anecdotes and illustrations, but it preserves a record altogether unique of a state of society just passed away, which has been well characterised by Mr. Ticknor, in his "Life and Letters," as "*the golden age of Edinburgh society.*"<sup>1</sup> Although the Portraits are principally of local interest, they are not wholly so, as may be seen from such names of wide celebrity as the following:—Sir Ralph Abercromby; Due d'Angoulême; Comte d'Artois (Charles X.); Bruce, the Abyssinian Traveller; Bryce, the Irish Giant; Grose, the Antiquarian; the Revs. Rowland Hill and John Wesley; Lord Chancellor Loughborough; Lunardi, the Aeronaut; Thomas Paine; William Pitt, etc.

Of the diligent use Kay made of his pencil these volumes furnish ample testimony, as well as of the admirable manner in which the engraving has been executed. A few additional plates, not hitherto published (among which

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Allibone, in his "Dictionary of English Literature," speaks of Kay's work as "*a good book for a Grangerite,*" in allusion to the passion for portraits exhibited by James Granger, and excited by the publication of his work, the "Biographical History of England, adapted to a Methodical Catalogue of Engraved British Heads," 1769.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

is one of the late Mr. Archibald Constable), having fallen into the hands of the Publishers, have been added to the Second Volume, together with some notes on the text by Professor Daniel Wilson, author of “Memorials of Edinburgh in the Olden Time.”

In the preparation of the present Edition no expense has been spared to obtain the best results as regards the printing of both plates and text. In point, therefore, of completeness and general execution, this Edition will bear favourable comparison with its predecessors.

The Publishers have great satisfaction in being enabled to resuscitate this work ; but this, they regret to say, is practicable only to a limited extent, and they have therefore to announce that the Edition of the engravings now issued must necessarily be the last of Kay’s Original Portraits.

EDINBURGH, November 15, 1877.

## INTRODUCTORY NOTICE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

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THE Works of the late JOHN KAY illustrate an interesting epoch in the history of the Scottish capital. Throughout the greater part of half a century the Artist devoted himself with enthusiasm to his novel undertaking ; and while he contributed in no common degree to gratify and amuse the public of his own day, his graphic productions form a record which cannot fail to prove acceptable in after times.

Although the Etchings may not be entitled to rank high in the scale of art, they are nevertheless valuable as the unaided efforts of one who owed nothing to adventitious circumstances ; while the general accuracy for which the Portraitures are distinguished is a merit peculiarly his own. The intuitive facility of the Artist's pencil in this way must appear incredible, when it is known that, with few exceptions, they were executed from casual observation—the impression probably of a passing glance. Indeed, in many instances, they could not have been otherwise obtained.

Kay appears to have long entertained the idea of giving his Works to the world in a more permanent form. So early as 1792—assisted, it is believed, by a person of the name of Callender<sup>1</sup>—he had drawn up notes descriptive of the Prints, with a biographical notice of his own life. The want of pecuniary means probably formed the great obstacle to the execution of his plan ; and the venerable Caricaturist died at the age of eighty-four without having lived long enough to be gratified by the realisation of his wishes. His widow made several unsuccessful proposals for the disposal of the Plates ; and, after her death, having been brought to public sale by her trustees, they fell into my possession.

In carrying the intentions of the Caricaturist into effect, I have spared no exertion to render the Work as varied and interesting as possible. The notes

<sup>1</sup> Very little is known respecting Callender. He was a dabbler in politics, and is understood to have emigrated to America. In the Life of Dr. James Anderson (see *Chambers's Scot. Biog. Dict.*) some notice is taken of him in connection with an occurrence not much to his credit.

## INTRODUCTORY NOTICE.

furnished by Kay and his assistant having been found exceedingly meagre and inaccurate, the difficulty of collecting materials may be conceived ; yet I would be wanting in courtesy did I not acknowledge—and I do so with pleasure—how much the labour has been lessened by the efforts of voluntary contributors. Indeed, the liberality I have experienced in this respect, and the disinterested manner in which many of the literary and antiquarian gentlemen of Edinburgh have vouchsafed their countenance and aid, is such as to call forth the warmest expressions of gratitude. Difficult as the task may have been, a few years' delay would have rendered it much more so. The events to which many of the Engravings allude were fast receding into oblivion, and are only to be traced in the remembrance of a few old citizens, whose memories—uninterested by the daily occurrences around them—cling tenaciously to the past.

It has been urged by some that a stricter attention to chronology ought to have been observed. I am perfectly aware of the force of this observation ; but a strict adherence to dates would have occasioned interminable delay in the progress of the Work, without producing any corresponding advantage ; while, by the plan adopted, greater variety has been afforded than could otherwise have been obtained. Besides, a classed Index will be given at the conclusion of the Work, which it is hoped will supply any supposed defect of arrangement.

H. PATON.

EDINBURGH, *November 1837.*





JOHN KAY  
*Drawn & Engraved by Himself 1786.*

# ORIGINAL PORTRAITS,

ETC. ETC.

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No. I.

MR. JOHN KAY.

CARICATURIST, ENGRAVER, AND MINIATURE PAINTER.

DRAWN BY HIMSELF, 1786.

THE following sketch of the life of John Kay was written by himself, with the view, it is believed, of being prefixed to a collection of his works which he had projected :—

“JOHN KAY, the author of these Prints, was born in April 1742, in a small house a little south from Dalkeith, commonly called Gibraltar. His father, Mr. John Kay, was a mason in Dalkeith, as well as his two paternal uncles, James and Norman Kay. His mother, Helen Alexander, was heiress to many tene-ments in Edinburgh and Canongate, out of which she was tricked by the cir-cumvention of some of her own relations.

“She had still so much confidence in those relations, however, that upon the death of her husband in 1748, she boarded her only son John, then only six years of age, with one of them, who used him extremely ill, and not only neglected but beat and starved him. While he lived with these savages in Leith, he ran various risks of his life from accidents without doors, as well as from bad usage within ; and there is every reason to believe that they really wished his death, and took every method to accomplish it except downright murder. On one occasion he was blown into the sea from the Ferry-boat Stairs, and on another he fell into the water on stepping across the joists below the Wooden Pier, but recovered himself both times, by grasping the steps on the one occasion, and the joists on the other. But he ran a still greater risk of drowning upon a third occasion, when, happening to be seated on the side of a ship in the harbour, he was accidentally pushed overboard, and being taken up for dead, remained in that condition for some time, till one of the sailors, anxious to see him, in his hurry trampled upon his belly, which immediately excited a groan,

and produced respiration and articulation. He might have died, however, that same evening, had not other people taken more care of him than his barbarous relations did.

"About this time he gave strong proofs of an uncommon genius for drawing, by sketching men, horses, cattle, houses, etc., with chalk, charcoal, or pieces of burnt wood, for want of pencils and crayons. But under the government of his cousins, no propensity of this kind was either attended to or encouraged. And, though he himself wished rather to be a mason, the profession of his father and uncles, yet, by some fatality or other, it happened that he was bound apprentice to one George Heriot, a barber in Dalkeith, about the age of thirteen or little more.

"With this honest man he learned his business, and served six years, during which time, although he did every kind of drudgery work, he was perfectly happy in comparison of the state of tyranny under which he had so long groaned at Leith. When his time was out he came to Edinburgh, where he wrought seven years as a journeyman with different masters, after which he began to think of doing business for himself; but not having the freedom of the city, he was obliged to purchase it from the Society of Surgeon-Barbers, of which corporation he accordingly became a member the 19th December 1771, upon paying about £40 sterling.

"This business he carried on with great success for several years, being employed by a number of the principal nobility and gentry in and about Edinburgh. Among other genteel customers, he was employed by the late William Nisbet, Esq. of Dirleton, who not only employed him in town, but also took him various jaunts through the country with him in his machine; and at last became so fond of him, that for several years before he died, particularly the two last (1783 and 1784), he had him almost constantly with him, by night and by day.

"The leisure time he had on these occasions, while he lodged at Mr. Nisbet's house, afforded him an opportunity, which he took care not to neglect, of gratifying the natural propensity of his genius, by improving himself in drawing; and Mr. Nisbet having approved of his exertions, and encouraged him in the pursuit, he executed at this time a great number of miniature paintings—some of which are still in the possession of the family of Dirleton, and the greater part in his own.

"It should have been mentioned earlier in the order of chronology, that our hero married, so early as the twentieth year of his age, Miss Lilly Steven, who bore him ten children, all of whom died young except his eldest son William, who was named after Mr. Nisbet, and who seems to inherit his father's talent for drawing. Mrs. Kay died in March 1785, and after living upwards of two years a widower, our hero married his present wife, Miss Margaret Scott, with whom he now lives very happily.

"Mr. Nisbet of Dirleton, previous to his death, sensible that, by occupying so much of Mr. Kay's time, he could not but hurt his business, although he sent money regularly to Mrs. Kay, had often promised to make him amends by settling

a genteel annuity upon him. This, however, from his debilitated habit of body, was delayed from time to time, till death put it out of his power. But, to the honour of his heir, he was so sensible of Mr. Kay's good offices to his father, as well as of his father's intentions, that he voluntarily made a settlement of £20 per annum for life upon him.

"After the death of his patron, our author attempted to etch in aquafortis, and having published some of his Prints executed in this way, he met with so much unexpected success, that he at last determined to drop his old profession altogether, which he did accordingly in 1785.

"Our Author has drawn himself in this Print, sitting in a thoughtful posture, in an antiquated chair (whereby he means to represent his love of antiquities), with his favourite cat (the largest it is believed in Scotland) sitting upon the back of it; several pictures hanging behind him; a bust of Homer with his painting utensils on the table before him, a scroll of paper in his hand, and a volume of his works upon his knee."

Mr. Kay continued from the above period till about the year 1817 to exercise his talents in engraving. For a period of nearly half a century, few persons of any notoriety who figured in the Scottish capital have escaped his notice, and he has occasionally indulged himself in caricaturing such local incidents as might amuse the public.

In this way he has formed a collection altogether unique; and we concur with Mr. Chambers<sup>1</sup> in thinking that "it may with safety be affirmed that no city in the empire can boast of so curious a chronicle." It is right, in addition to this, to mention that his etchings are universally admitted to possess one merit, which of itself stamps them with value, namely that of being exact and faithful likenesses of the parties intended to be represented.

The emoluments derived from his engravings and painting miniature likenesses in water colours, together with the annuity from the Dirleton family, regularly paid by Sir Henry Jardine, rendered him tolerably independent.

He had a small print-shop on the south side of the Parliament Square, in which he sold his productions, and the windows of which, being always filled with his more recent works, used to be a great attraction to the idlers of the time. It was, with the rest of the old buildings in the square, destroyed by the great fire in November 1824.

In his outward appearance he was a slender, straight old man, of middle size, and usually dressed in a garb of antique cut, of simple habits, and quiet unassuming manners. He died at his house, No. 227 High Street, Edinburgh, 21st February 1826, in the eighty-fourth year of his age. His widow survived him upwards of nine years; her death took place in November 1835. The son alluded to by Mr. Kay in his biography predeceased his father.

<sup>1</sup> "Biographical Dictionary of Illustrious Scotsmen,"

No. II.—*A Triumvirate.*

## THE DAFT HIGHLAND LAIRD.

JOHN DHU, OR DOW, ALIAS MACDONALD, AND  
JAMIE DUFF, AN IDIOT.

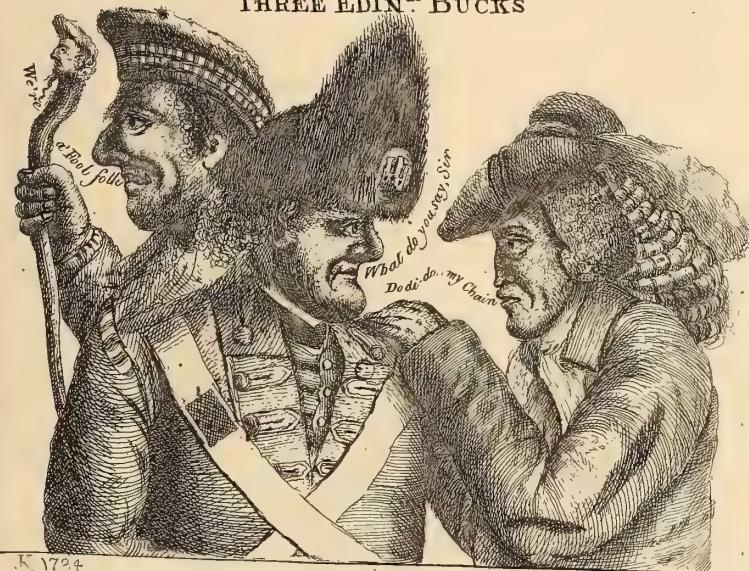
THE first of these worthies, who is in the act of holding up a staff surmounted by the representation of a human head and face, was a gentleman by birth, his proper name and title being James Robertson of Kineraigie, in Perthshire. He was a determined Jacobite, and had been engaged in the Rebellion of 1745, for which he was confined in the Tolbooth of Edinburgh.

It was during this incarceration that the Laird exhibited those symptoms of derangement which subsequently caused him to obtain the sobriquet of the “Daft Highland Laird.” His lunacy was first indicated by a series of splendid entertainments to all those who chose to come, no matter who they were.

His insanity and harmlessness having become known to the authorities, they discharged him from the jail, from which, however, he was no sooner ejected than he was pounced upon by his friends, who having cognosced him in the usual manner, his younger brother was, it is understood, appointed his curator or guardian. By this prudent measure his property was preserved against any attempts which might be made by designing persons, and an adequate yearly allowance was provided for his support. A moderate income having in this way been secured to the Laird, he was enabled to maintain the character of a deranged gentleman with some degree of respectability, and he enjoyed, from this time forward, a total immunity from all the cares of life. When we say, however, that the Laird was freed from all care and anxiety, we hazarded something more than the facts warrant. There was one darling wish of his heart that clung to him for many a day, which certainly it was not very easy to gratify. This was his extreme anxiety to be hanged, drawn, and quartered, as a rebel partisan of the house of Stuart, and a sworn and deadly foe to the reigning dynasty. He was sadly annoyed that nobody would put him in jail as a traitor, or attempt to bring him to trial. It would have been a partial alleviation of his grief, if he could have got any benevolent person to have accused him of treason. It was in vain that he drank healths to the Pretender—in vain that he bawled treason in the streets; there was not one who would lend a helping-hand to procure him the enjoyment of its pains and penalties.

The Laird, although he uniformly insisted on being a martyr to the cause of the Chevalier, seemed to feel that there was something wanting to complete his pretensions to that character—that it was hardly compatible with the unrestrained liberty he enjoyed, the ease and comfort in which he lived, and the total immunity from any kind of suffering which was permitted him; and hence his anxiety to bring down upon himself the vengeance of the law.

THREE EDIN<sup>R</sup>. BUCKS





Failing, however, in every attempt to provoke the hostility of Government, and thinking, in his despair of success, that if he could once again get within the walls of a jail, it would be at any rate something gained, and that his incarceration might lead to the result he was so desirous of obtaining, he fell on the ingenious expedient of running in debt to his landlady, whom, by a threat of non-payment, he induced to incarcerate him. This delightful consummation accordingly took place, and the Laird was made happy by having so far got, as he imagined, on the road to martyrdom.

It was a very easy matter to get the Laird into jail, but it was by no means so easy a one to get him out again. Indeed, it was found next to impossible. No entreaties would prevail upon him to quit it, even after the debt for which he was imprisoned was paid. There he insisted on remaining until he should be regularly brought to trial for high treason. At last a stratagem was resorted to, to induce him to remove. One morning two soldiers of the Town Guard appeared in his apartment in the prison, and informed him that they had come to escort him to the Justiciary Court, where the Judges were assembled, and waiting for his presence, that they might proceed with his trial for high treason.

Overjoyed with the delightful intelligence, the Laird instantly accompanied the soldiers down stairs, when the latter having got him fairly outside of the jail, locked the door to prevent his re-entering, and deliberately walked off, leaving the amazed and disappointed candidate for a halter to reflect on the slippery trick that had just been played him.

The Laird, after this, having, it would seem, abandoned all hope of being hanged, betook himself to an amusement which continued to divert him during the remainder of his life. This was carving in wood, for which he had a talent, the heads of public personages, or of any others who became special objects of his dislike, and in some cases, of those, too, for whom he entertained a directly opposite feeling; thus, amongst his collection were those of the Pretender, and several of his most noted adherents.

These little figures he stuck on the end of a staff or cane, which, as he walked about, he held up to public view. His enemies, or such as he believed to be such, were always done in a style of the most ridiculous caricature. The Laird exhibited a new figure every day of the year, and as this was expected of him, the question, "Wha hae ye up the day, Laird?" was frequently put to him, when he would readily give every information on the subject required.

When the Print to which this notice refers was first exhibited, the Laird retaliated by mounting a caricature likeness of the limner on his staff; and when asked for the usual information demanded in such cases, "Don't you see it's the barber?" he would reply; "and wasn't it a wise thing of him when drawing twa daft men, to put a sodger between them?" On another occasion, meeting the Honourable Henry Erskine one day as he was about to enter the Parliament House, of which the Laird was a great frequenter, the former inquired how he did: "Oh, very weel!" answered the Laird; "but I'll tell ye what, Harry, tak' in Justice wi' ye," pointing to one of the statues over the old

porch of the Parliament House, "for she has stood lang i' the outside, and it wad be a treat for her to see the inside, like other strangers!"

He was of a kindly and inoffensive disposition, and, in keeping with this character, was extremely fond of children, and of those young persons generally who treated him with becoming respect. For these he always carried about with him in his pocket a large supply of tops, *peeries*, and *tee-totums*, of his own manufacture, which he distributed liberally amongst them; while to adults he was equally generous in the articles of snuff and tobacco, giving these freely to all who chose to enter into conversation with him. The Laird was thus a general favourite with both young and old.

He resided on the Castlehill, and was most frequently to be seen there, and in the Grassmarket, Lawnmarket, and Bow-head.

He wore a cocked Highland bonnet, as represented in the picture, which is an admirable likeness, was handsome in person, and possessed of great bodily strength. He died in July 1790. He retained to his dying hour his allegiance to the House of Stuart; and, about two years before his demise, gave a decisive instance of it, by creating a disturbance at Bishop Abernethy Drummond's chapel, in consequence of the reverend gentleman and his congregation, who had previously been Nonjurants, praying for King George III.

JOHN DHU, the centre figure on the Print, was, in the days of Mr. Kay, a distinguished member of the Town-Guard, a band of civic militia, or armed police, which existed in Edinburgh till 1817, and of which some notice will be subsequently presented. John, a Highlander by birth, was conspicuous for his peculiarly robust and rough appearance, which was of itself as effectual in keeping the younger and more mischievous part of the population in awe, as any ten Lochaber axes in the corps. The Author of Waverley speaks of him somewhere as one of the fiercest-looking fellows he had ever seen. In facing the unruly mobs of those days, John had shown such a degree of valour as to impress the Magistrates with a high sense of his utility as a public servant. That such an image of military violence should have been necessary at the close of the eighteenth century, to protect the peace of a British city, presents us with a singular contrast of what we lately were, and what we have now become. On one occasion, about the time of the French Revolution, when the Town-Guard had been signalising the King's birthday by firing in the Parliament Square, being unusually pressed and insulted by the populace, this undaunted warrior turned upon one peculiarly outrageous member of the democracy, and, with one blow of his battle-axe, laid him lifeless on the causeway.

With all this vigour in the execution of his duty, John Dhu is represented as having been, in reality, a kind-hearted man, exceedingly gentle and affectionate to his wife, and of so obliging a disposition, that he often did the duty of his brethren as well as his own, thereby frequently exposing himself to an amount of fatigue that few men could have borne.

JAMIE DUFF, the third figure in the Print, was long conspicuous upon the streets of Edinburgh as a person of weak intellects, and of many grotesque peculiarities. He was the child of a poor widow who dwelt in the Cowgate, and was chiefly indebted for subsistence to the charity of those who were amused by his odd but harmless manners. This poor creature had a passion for attending funerals, and no solemnity of that kind could take place in the city without being graced by his presence. He usually took his place in front of the *saulies* or ushers, or, if they were wanting, at the head of the ordinary company; thus forming a kind of practical burlesque upon the whole ceremony, the toleration of which it is now difficult to account for. To Jamie himself, it must be allowed, it was as serious a matter as to any of the parties more immediately concerned. He was most scrupulous both as to costume and countenance, never appearing without crape, cravat, and weepers, and a look of downcast woe in the highest degree edifying. It is true the weepers were but of paper, and the cravat, as well as the general attire, in no very fair condition. He had all the merit, nevertheless, of good intention, which he displayed more particularly on the occurrence of funerals of unusual dignity, by going previously to a most respectable hatter, and getting his hat newly tinctured with the dye of sorrow, and the crape arranged so as to hang a little lower down his back.

By keeping a sharp look-out after prospective funerals, Jamie succeeded in securing nearly all the enjoyment which the mortality of the city was capable of affording. It nevertheless chanced that one of some consequence escaped his vigilance. He was standing at the well drawing water, when, lo! a funeral procession, and a very stately one, appeared. What was to be done? He was wholly unprepared: he had neither crape nor weepers, and there was now no time to assume them; and moreover, and worse than all this, he was encumbered with a pair of "*stoups!*" It was a trying case; but Jamie's enthusiasm in the good cause overcame all difficulties. He stepped out, took his usual place in advance of the company, stoups and all, and, with one of these graceful appendages in each hand moved on as chief usher of the procession. The funeral party did not proceed in the direction of any of the usual places of interment. It took quite a contrary direction. It left the town; this was odd! It held on its way: odder still! Mile after mile passed away, and still there was no appearance of a consummation. On and on the procession went, but Jamie, however surprised he might be at the unusual circumstance, manfully kept his post, and with indefatigable perseverance continued to lead on. In short, the procession never halted till it reached the seaside at Queensferry, a distance of about nine miles, where the party composing it embarked, coffin and all, leaving the poor fool on the shore, gazing after them with a most ludicrous stare of disappointment and amazement. Such a thing had never occurred to him before in the whole course of his experience.

Jamie's attendance at funerals, however, though unquestionably proceeding from a pure and disinterested passion for such ceremonies, was also a source of considerable emolument to him, as his spontaneous services were as regularly

paid for as those of the hired officials ; a douceur of a shilling or half-a-crown being generally given on such occasions.

We come now to view the subject of our memoir as a civic dignitary—as Bailie Duff—a title which was given him by his contemporaries, and which posterity has recognised. The history of his elevation is short and simple. Jamie was smitten with the ambition of becoming a magistrate ; and at once, to realise his own notions on this subject, and to establish his claims to the envied dignity in the eyes of others, he procured and wore a brass medal and chain, in imitation of the gold insignia worn by the city magistrates, and completed his equipment by mounting a wig and cocked hat. Jamie now became a veritable bailie ; and his claims to the high honour—it gives us pleasure to record the fact—were cheerfully acknowledged.

At one period of the Bailie's magisterial career, however, his pretensions certainly were disputed by one individual ; and by whom does the reader imagine ? Why, by a genuine dignitary of corresponding rank—a member of the Town-Council ! This person was dreadfully shocked at this profanation of things sacred, and he ordered his brother magistrate, Duff, to be deprived of his insignia, which was accordingly done. City politics running high at this time, this odd, and it may be added absurd, exercise of power was unmercifully satirised by the local poets and painters of the day.

It may not be without interest to know that this poor innocent manifested much filial affection. To his mother he was ever kind and attentive, and so anxious for her comfort, that he would consume none of the edibles he collected, till he had carried them home, and allowed her an opportunity of partaking of them. So rigid was he in his adherence to this laudable rule, that he made no distinction between solids and fluids, but insisted on having all deposited in his pocket.

The Bailie, at one period, conceived a great aversion to silver money, from a fear of being enlisted ; and in order to make sure of escaping this danger, having no thirst whatever for military glory, he steadily refused all silver coin ; when his mother, discovering that his excessive caution in this matter had a serious effect on their casual income, got his nephew, a boy, to accompany him in the character of receiver-general and purse-bearer ; and by the institution of this officer, the difficulty was got over, and the Bailie relieved from all apprehension of enlistment.

He was tall and robust, with a shrinking, shambling gait, and usually wore his stockings hanging loose about his heels, as will be shown by a full-length portrait of him done by Kay at an after period. He never could speak distinctly, though it was remarked, that, when irritated, he could make a shift to swear. He died in 1788.





3

1777

## No. III.

## FRANCIS M'NAB, ESQ. OF M'NAB.

SCOTLAND, about the close of the eighteenth century, contained few men of greater local notoriety than the herculean Highlander, whom Mr. Kay has here represented in the act of reeling along the North Bridge, a little declined from the perpendicular. “The Laird of M’Nab,” as he was commonly called, represented his clan at a time when the ancient peculiarities of the manners and ideas of a Highland chief were melting into a union with those of a Lowland gentleman. A strong dash of the primitive character, joined to much natural eccentricity, tended to make him a wonder in the midst of the cultivated society of his day. To complete the effect of his singular manners, his person was cast in one of nature’s most gigantic moulds.

A volume, and that not a small one, might be filled with the curious sayings and doings of this singular gentleman; but unfortunately the greater part of them, for reasons which may be guessed, could not, with any degree of propriety, be laid before the public.

The Laird was remarkable, above all things, for his notions of the dignity of his chieftainship. A gentleman, who had come from a great distance to pay him a visit, either ignorant of or forgetting the etiquette to be observed in speaking to or of a Highland chieftain, inquired if *Mr.* M’Nab was within?—“*Mr.*” being a contemptible Saxon prefix, applied to every one who wears a passable coat, and well enough probably in the case of those ignoble persons who earn their bread by a profession, but not at all fit to be attached to the name of a Highland chief. The consequence of this error of the Laird’s visitor was, that he was refused admittance—a fact the more astonishing to himself, as he distinctly heard the Laird’s voice in the lobby. In explanation of his blunder, he was told by a friend that he should have inquired, not for *Mr.* M’Nab, but for the *Laird* of M’Nab, or simply M’Nab, by way of eminence. Acting on this hint, he called on the following day, and was not only admitted, but received with a most cordial and hearty welcome.

Of the Laird’s literary attainments some anecdotes have found their way into the jest-books. In one of these he is represented as laying the blame of certain orthographical errors with which he was charged on one occasion, to the badness of his pen, triumphantly asking his accuser, “Wha could spell with sic a pen?”

Of a piece with this, and indicating a somewhat similar degree of intellectual culture, was his going to a jeweller to bespeak a ring, similar to one worn by a friend of his which had taken his fancy, and which was set either with the hair of Charles Edward, or some other member of his family, the latter circumstance of course constituting its chief value. “But how soon,” said the jeweller, whom

he was for binding down to a day for the completion of the work, “will you send me the hair?”—“The hair, sir!” replied M’Nab fiercely; “Py Cot, sir you must give me the hair to the pargain!”

In cases, however, where the Laird is exhibited in the exercise of his own native wit, he by no means cuts the ridiculous figure he is made to do in such stories as the above. The Laird was a regular attendant on the Leith races, at which he usually appeared in a rather flashy-looking gig. On one of these occasions he had the misfortune to lose his horse, which suddenly dropped down dead. At the races in the following year, a wag who had witnessed the catastrophe rode up to him and said, “M’Nab, is that the same horse you had last year?”

“No, py Cot!” replied the Laird, “but this is the same whip;” and he was about to apply it to the shoulders of the querist, when he saved himself by a speedy retreat.

On the formation of the Local Militia in 1808, M’Nab being in Edinburgh, applied for arms for the Breadalbane corps of that force, but which he ought to have called the 4th Perthshire Local Militia. The storekeeper not recognising them by the name given by M’Nab, replied to his application that he did not know such a corps.

“My fine little storekeeper,” rejoined the Laird, highly offended at the contempt implied in this answer, “that may be; but, take my word for it, we do not think a bit the less of ourselves by *your* not knowing us.”

This original character, but kind, single-minded man, died unmarried<sup>1</sup> at Callander, in Perthshire, on the 25th June 1816, in the eighty-second year of his age.

#### No. IV.

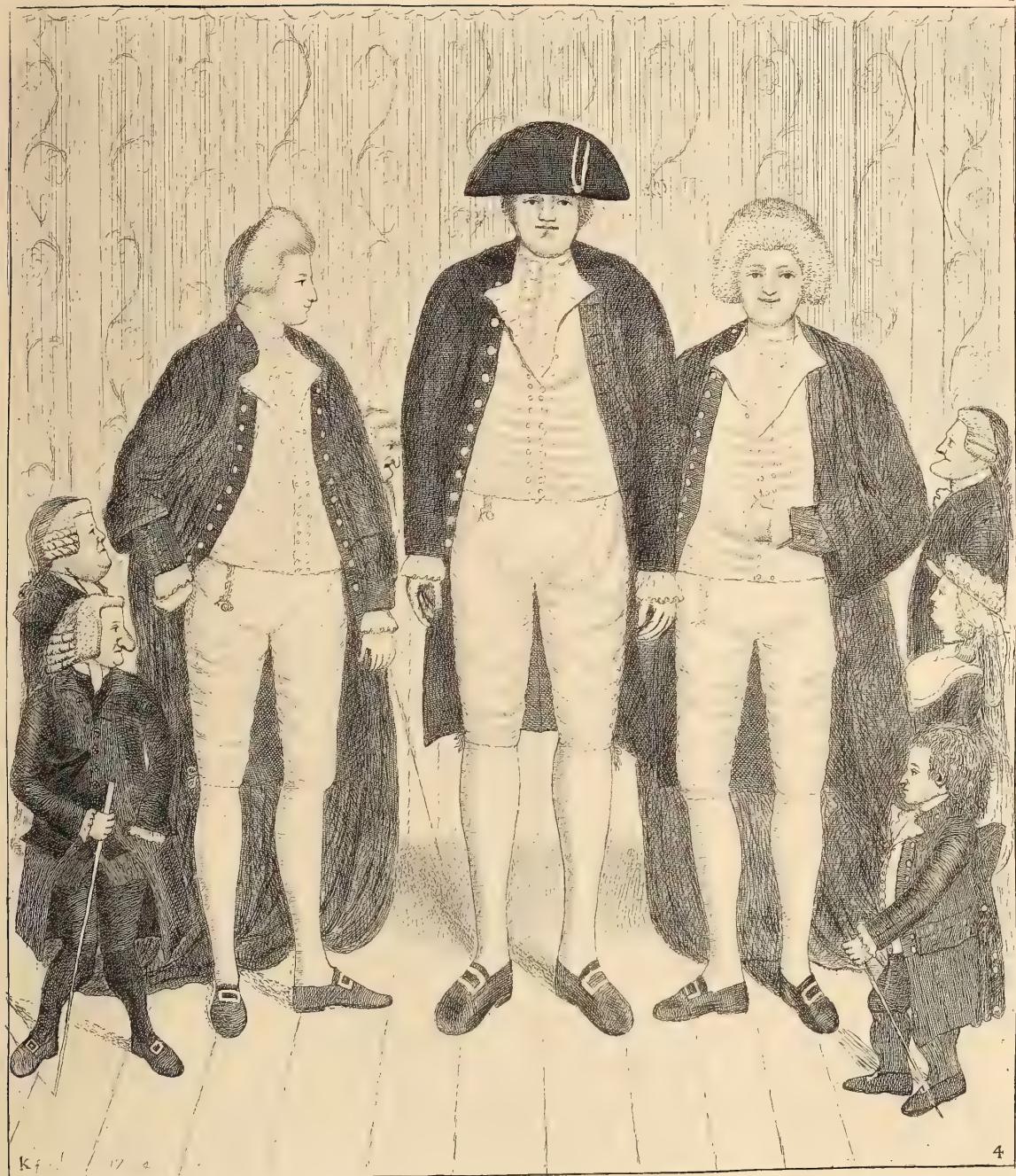
#### THREE GIANTS, WITH A GROUP OF SPECTATORS.

THIS Print exhibits Charles Byrne, the Irish giant, and two other giants, also Irishmen, who, although not in Edinburgh at the same time, have been placed by the artist in one group.

The spectators are—Lord Monboddo, whose head appears in the background; William Richardson, solicitor-at-law, on the left behind; and Mr. Bell, engraver, in front; on the right, Bailie Kyd, a lady, and a dwarf.

Byrne, the central of the three principal figures, was eight feet two inches in height, and proportionably thick. He was born in Ireland, of which country

<sup>1</sup> On one occasion when the opposite counsel, in one of his many causes in the Court of Session, was animadverting on the immoral character of the Laird, he observed that it was currently reported that he had no less than twenty-seven natural children in the quarter where he lived. The Laird, being in Court, rose up and said, “It is a pig lee, my Lord, for I have only four-and-twenty.” One evening, being at a party, a number of young ladies very jocularly asked him why he never took a wife. He good-humouredly replied, “My tears, I love you all so well that I can’t think of marrying any one of you.”





his father was a native, but his mother was a Scotswoman. He travelled the country for the purpose of exhibiting his huge person. When in Edinburgh, he is said to have had great difficulty in getting up and down the narrow stairs of the Old Town, being obliged to crawl on all-fours.

It is also related of him that he dreadfully alarmed the watchmen on the North Bridge, early one winter's morning, by lighting his pipe at one of the lamps ; which he did with the greatest ease, without standing even on tiptoe. He died 1st June 1783, in Cockspur Street, Charing Cross, London, aged only twenty-two. His death was occasioned by excessive drinking, to which he was always addicted, but more particularly after a loss he had sustained of almost all his savings, amounting to upwards of £700.<sup>1</sup> In his last moments he requested that his ponderous remains might be thrown into the sea, in order that his bones might be placed far out of the reach of the chirurgical fraternity ; and it was reported that his body was shipped on board a vessel, to be conveyed to the Downs to be sunk in twenty fathoms of water.

In the *Edinburgh Evening Courant*, June 9 and 10, 1783, the following notices, relative to the disposal of his body, are to be found :—

“The coffin of Mr. Charles Byrne, the Irish giant, aged twenty-three years, measures eight feet five inches within side, and the outside case nine feet four inches, and the circumference of his shoulders measures three feet four inches.”

“Yesterday morning, June 6, the body of Byrne, the famous Irish giant (who died a few days ago), was carried to Margate, in order to be thrown into the sea, agreeable to his own request, he having been apprehensive that the surgeons would anatomize him.”

It is to be presumed that this fancy as to the disposal of his body was in some way obviated, as his skeleton is said to be now in the Hunterian Museum, Royal College of Surgeons, London. A correspondent of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, Vol. XXXIII., p. 541, observes, “That Mr. Byrne, in August 1780, measured exactly eight feet ; that in 1782, he had gained two inches ; and that, after he was dead, he measured eight feet four inches. Neither his father, mother, brother, nor any other person of the family, was of an extraordinary size.”

The two Irish giants, who are placed on each side of Byrne, visited Edinburgh in July 1784. Their presence in the northern capital was announced by various advertisements, of which we subjoin the following as a specimen :—

#### “IRISH GIANTS.”

“The most surprising *Gigantic Twin Brothers* are just arrived in Edinburgh, and to be seen in an elegant apartment at Mr. Robertson's, Ladies' Hair-dresser, No. 2, opposite to the Register Office, Prince's Street.

<sup>1</sup> After the death of Byrne, the note for £700 was traced to a Mr. Atkinson, who insisted that he had given value for it ; but the Giant's executor having proved that notice had been given of the theft previous to the exchange of the note, an action at law for the amount was compromised by a payment of £500.

“ These wonderful Irish giants are but twenty-three years of age, and measure very near eight feet high. These extraordinary young men have had the honour to be seen by their Majesties and Royal Family at Windsor, in November 1783, with great applause; and likewise by Gentlemen of the Faculty, Royal Society, and other admirers of natural curiosity, who allow them to surpass any thing of the same kind ever offered to the public. Their address is singular and pleasing: their persons truly shaped and proportioned to their height, and affords an agreeable surprise. They excel the famous Maximilian Miller, born in 1674, shown in London in 1733;<sup>1</sup> and the late Swedish Giant will scarce admit of comparison. To enumerate every particular would be too tedious; let it suffice to say, that they are beyond what is set forth in ancient or modern history. The ingenious and judicious who have honoured them with their company have bestowed the most lavish encomiums; and, on their departure, have expressed their approbation and satisfaction. In short, the sight of them is more than the mind can conceive, the tongue express, or pencil delineate, and stands without a parallel in this or in any other country.

‘Take them for all in all, we shall scarce  
Look on their like again.’

“ Ladies and Gentlemen are respectfully informed, that their hours of admittance are from ten in the morning to three in the afternoon, and from four to nine in the evening, every day (Sundays excepted).

“ Price of admittance, One Shilling.—July 27th, 1784.”

These “interesting” youths left Edinburgh for Aberdeen in the month of August following, proposing “to stop in a few towns on their way,” to astonish the natives. Whether they ever again visited Edinburgh has not been ascertained.

BAILIE JOHN KYD, a bachelor, who once made no small noise in the city, especially at the time the Print of the “Kid and the Goat” was done, was a wine-merchant in that large land at the head of the Cowgate, opposite the Candlemaker Row, first door up stairs, in the flat immediately below Mrs. Sym, grandmother to Lord Brougham—he was third bailie in 1769, first bailie in 1772, and Dean of Guild in 1774 and 1775. He died, it is understood, early in the year 1810.

WILLIAM RICHARDSON, solicitor-at-law, the gentleman in the background on the left, was in his time eminent in his profession, and much respected as Preses of the Society of Solicitors, which office he held. He died, the oldest member of that society, at Edinburgh, on the 6th of July 1801, being seventy-eight years of age.

<sup>1</sup> “Dec. 12, 1734.—This day died the tall Saxon, being about seven feet ten inches high.”

ANDREW BELL, the very odd-looking gentleman on the left, was an engraver ; and however little flattering this representation of his person may be considered, it is nevertheless perfectly correct—his nose to a hair's-breadth, and the angle of his legs to a point. Mr. Bell began his professional career in the humble employment of engraving letters, names, and crests on gentlemen's plates, dog's collars, and so forth, but subsequently rose to be the first in his line in Edinburgh. His success, however, can scarcely be attributed to any excellence he ever attained as an engraver, but rather to the result of a fortunate professional speculation in which he engaged. This was the publication of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, of which he was proprietor to the amount of a half ; and to which he furnished the plates. By one edition of this work he is said to have realised twenty thousand pounds.

Mr. Bell did not possess the advantage of a liberal education, but this deficiency he in some measure compensated in after life by extensive reading, and by keeping the society of men of letters, of which aids to intellectual improvement he made so good a use that he became remarkable for the extent of his information, and so agreeable a companion that his company was in great request.

Mr. Bell was a true philosopher : so far from being ashamed of the unnecessary liberality of nature in the article of nose, he was in the habit of making it the groundwork of an amusing practical joke.

He carried about with him a still larger artificial nose, which, when any merry party he happened to be with had got in their cups, he used to slip on, unseen, above his own immense proboscis, to the inexpressible horror and amazement of those who were not aware of the trick. They had observed of course, at the first, that Mr. Bell's nose was rather a striking feature of his face, but they could not conceive how it had so suddenly acquired the utterly hideous magnitude which it latterly presented to them.

Mr. Bell was also remarkable for the deformity of his legs, upon which, however, he was the first person to jest. Once in a large company, when some jokes had passed on the subject, he said, pushing out one of them, that he would wager there was in the room a leg still more crooked. The company denied his assertion and accepted the challenge, whereupon he very coolly thrust out his other leg, which was still worse than its neighbour, and thus gained his bet.

Mr. Bell acknowledged he was but a very indifferent engraver himself, yet he reared some first-rate artists in that profession. He died much regretted, at his own house in Lauriston Lane, at the advanced age of eighty-three, on the 10th of May 1809.

## No. V.

## LORD KAMES.

HUGO ARNOT, ESQ. OF BALCORMO, ADVOCATE.

## LORD MONBODDO.

HENRY HOME, LORD KAMES, the first figure in this Print, well known by his numerous works on law and metaphysics, was a judge of the Courts of Session and Justiciary.

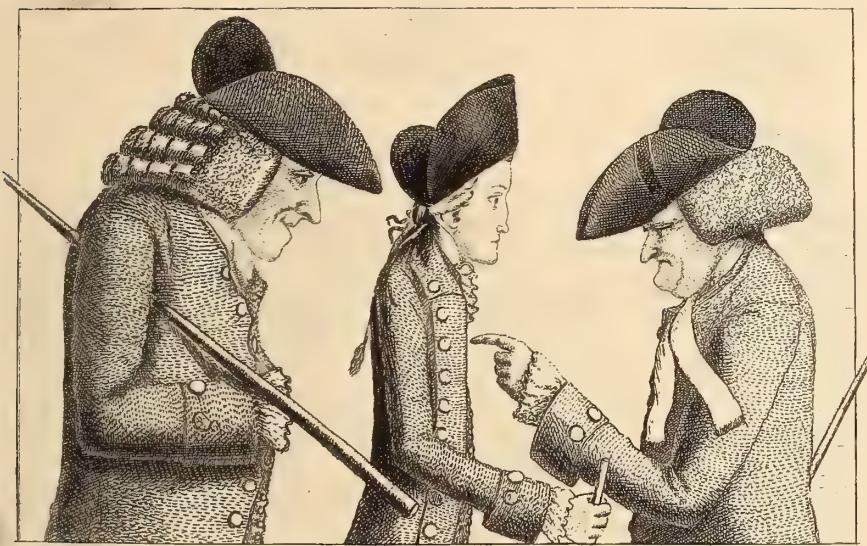
He was born in the county of Berwick, in the year 1695, and was descended of an ancient but reduced family. But it was to his own exertions, his natural talent, and profound legal knowledge, that he was indebted for the high rank and celebrity he subsequently attained ; for his father was in straitened circumstances, and unable to extend to him any such aid as wealth could afford.

His lordship was early destined for the profession of the law, in which he wisely began at the beginning ; having started in his career as a writer's apprentice, with the view of acquiring a competent knowledge of the forms and practical business of courts. After long and successful practice at the bar, he was raised to the bench, and took his seat 6th February 1752.

Lord Kames possessed a flow of spirits, and a vivacity of wit and liveliness of fancy, that rendered his society exceedingly delightful, and particularly acceptable to the ladies, with whom he was in high favour. He is accused of having become in his latter years somewhat parsimonious ; what truth may have been in the accusation we know not.

Notwithstanding the general gravity of his pursuits, his lordship was naturally of a playful disposition, and fond of a harmless practical joke, of which a curious instance is on record.

A Mr. Wingate, who had been his private tutor in early life, but who had by no means made himself agreeable to him, called upon him after he had become eminent in his profession, to take his opinion regarding the validity of certain title-deeds which he held for a sum of money advanced on land. The lawyer, after carefully examining them, looked at his old master with an air of the most profound concern, and expressed a hope that he had not concluded the bargain. The alarmed pedagogue, with a most rueful countenance, answered that he had ; when Mr. Home gravely proceeded to entertain him with a luminous exposition of the defects of the deeds, showing, by a long series of legal and technical objections, that they were not worth the value of the parchment on which they were written. Having enjoyed for some time Wingate's distress, he relieved the sufferer by thus addressing him—“ You may remember, sir, how you made me smart in days of yore for very small offences : now, I think our





accounts are closed. Take up your papers, man, and go home with an easy mind ; your titles are excellent."

Amongst his lordship's singularities, which were not a few, was an unaccountable predilection for a certain word, more remarkable for its vigour than its elegance, which he used freely even on the bench, where it certainly must have sounded very oddly. This peculiarity is pointed out in the amusing poem entitled the "Court of Session Garland," by James Boswell—

"Alemoor the judgment as illegal blames—  
    'Tis equity, you b—h,' replies my Lord Kames."

About a week before his death, which was the result of extreme old age, feeling his end approaching, he went to the Court of Session, addressed all the judges separately, told them he was speedily to depart, and bade them a solemn and affectionate farewell. On reaching the door, however, he turned round, and, bestowing a last look on his sorrowing brethren, made his exit, exclaiming, "Fare ye a' weel, ye b—ches!"

Not more than four days before his demise, a friend called on his lordship, and found him, although in a state of great languor and debility, dictating to an amanuensis. He expressed his surprise at seeing him so actively employed. "Ye b—h," replied Kames, "would you have me stay with my tongue in my cheek till death comes to fetch me!" A day or two after this, he told the celebrated Dr. Cullen that he earnestly wished to be away, because he was exceedingly curious to learn the nature and manners of another world. He added—"Doctor, as I never could be idle in this world, I shall willingly perform any task that may be imposed on me in the next."

During the latter part of his life, he entertained a dread that he would outlive his faculties, and was well pleased to find, from the rapid decay of his body, that he would escape this calamity by a speedy dissolution. He died, after a short illness, on the 27th of December 1782, in the eighty-seventh year of his age.

His lordship lived in the *self-contained* house at the head of New Street, fronting the Canongate, east side, a house which was then considered one of the first in the city.

The works of Lord Kames are—"Remarkable Decisions of the Court of Session, from 1706 to 1728," folio ; "Essays upon several Subjects in Law," 1732 ; "Decisions of the Court of Session, from its first institution till the year 1740," 1741—two volumes were afterwards added by Lord Woodhouselee, and a Supplement by M'Grugar ; "Essays on several Subjects concerning British Antiquities," 1747 ; "Essays on the Principles of Morality and Natural Religion, in two parts," 1751, 8vo ; "The Statute Law of Scotland, abridged with Historical Notes," 1757, 8vo ; "Historical Law Tracts," 1759, 8vo ; "The Principles of Equity," 1760, folio ; "Introduction to the Art of Thinking," 1761, 12mo ; "Elements of Criticism," 1762, 8vo, 3 vols. ; "Remarkable Decisions of the Court of Session, from 1730 to 1752," 1766, folio ; "Gentleman Farmer," 1772, 8vo ; "Sketches of the History of Man," 1773, 2 vols.

4to; "Elucidations respecting the Common and Statute Law of Scotland," 1777, 8vo; "Select Decisions of the Court of Session, from 1752 to 1768," 1780, folio; and "Loose Hints upon Education, chiefly concerning the Culture of the Heart," 1781, 8vo.

HUGO ARNOT, Esq., the singularly attenuated gentleman who appears between Lord Kames and Lord Monboddo, was, in as far as his person is concerned, a sort of natural curiosity. He was of great height, but, as the Print shows, sadly deficient in breadth; yet an intelligent friend, who has contributed some information to this work, and who knew him well, complains that the limner has made him "*really too solid!*" If this be so, it is an error which is corrected in another likeness of him, which appears elsewhere in the present work. Mr. Arnot's person was, in truth, altogether an extraordinary and remarkable one, and it was in consequence the source of many jests and witticisms.

Mr. Arnot was the son of a merchant and ship proprietor at Leith, where he was born on the 8th December 1749. His name was originally Pollock, but he changed it in early life to Arnot, on the occasion of his falling heir, through his mother, to the estate of Balcormo in Fife.<sup>1</sup> He was bred to the law, and became a member of the Faculty of Advocates in the year 1772. A severe asthma, however, which was greatly aggravated by almost every kind of exertion, proved a serious obstruction to his progress at the bar, where, but for this unfortunate circumstance, there is little doubt that his talents would have raised him to eminence.

Mr. Arnot published in 12mo, London, 1776, "An Essay on Nothing, a Discourse delivered in a Society," which was favourably received.

In 1779 appeared his "History of Edinburgh," which makes, perhaps, as near an approach to classical excellence as any topographical publication which has ever appeared in Scotland. The merit of this work is sufficiently expressed in the fact of its not having been thrown into the shade, either in respect of information or composition, by any subsequent production. In 1785, Mr. Arnot published a "Collection of Celebrated Criminal Trials, with Historical and Critical Remarks," which added considerably to the reputation of its author.

Prior to the publication of this curious work, Arnot quarrelled with the booksellers; and, in December 1784, he advertised the book to be published by subscription, adding, "Mr. Arnot printed, a few days ago, a prospectus of the work, that the public might form some idea of its nature, and he sent it to be hung up in the principal booksellers in town; but they have thought proper to refuse, in a body, to allow the prospectus and subscription papers to hang in their shops. The prospectus will therefore be seen at the Royal Exchange Coffee-House, Exchange Coffee-House, Prince's Street Coffee-House, and Messrs. Corri and Sutherland's Music-Shop, Edinburgh, and Gibb's Coffee-House, Leith."

<sup>1</sup> "Died, December 5, 1773, at her house in Fifeshire, Mrs. Arnot of Balcormo, relict of the deceased Mr. Pollock, merchant."

Mr. Arnot, in his day, enjoyed an unusually large share of local popularity, proceeding from a combination of circumstances—his extraordinary figure, his abilities, his public spirit, his numerous eccentricities, and his caustic wit and humour. The reverse of Falstaff in figure, he resembled that creature of imagination in being not only witty himself, but the cause of wit in others. The jest of Henry Erskine, who, meeting him in the act of eating a spelding or dried haddock, complimented him on looking so like his meat, was but one of many which his extraordinary tenuity gave rise to.

Going alongst the North Bridge one day, Mr. Arnot, who was of so extremely nervous and irritable a disposition that he appeared, when walking the streets as if constantly under the apprehension of some impending danger, was suddenly surrounded by half-a-dozen unruly curs in the course of their gambols. This was a trying situation for a man of his weak nerves; but he wanted only presence of mind, not courage, and the latter, after a second or two, came to his aid. It rose with the occasion, and he began to brandish his stick; striking right and left, in front and in rear, with a rapidity and vigour that kept the enemy at bay, and made himself, in a twinkling, the centre of a canine circle. The resolution, however, which had come so opportunely to his assistance on this occasion, in the end gave way. Perceiving a break in the enemy's lines, he bolted through, turned again round, and thus, keeping the foe in front, retreated, still flourishing his stick, till he got his back against a wall, where, though it does not appear that he was pursued by the dogs, he continued the exercise of his cudgel for some time with unabated vigour, as if still in contact with the enemy, to the great amusement of the bystanders, amongst whom recognising a young man whom he knew, he roared out to him in a voice almost inarticulate with excessive agitation—"W——l, you scoundrel! why did you not assist me when you saw me in such danger?"

The man whom nervous disease placed in this grotesque attitude was originally of an intrepid mind, as is sufficiently proved by several incidents in his early life. One of them was his riding to the end of the Pier of Leith on a spirited horse, when the waves were dashing over it in such a way as to impress every onlooker with the belief that he could not fail to be swept into the sea.

Another was his accepting the challenge of an anonymous foe, who took offence at a political pamphlet he had written. This person called on him to meet him in the King's Park, naming the particular place and time. Mr. Arnot repaired to the spot at the appointed hour; but, though he waited long, no antagonist presented himself.

In his professional capacity he was guided by a sense of honour, and of moral obligation, to which he never scrupled to sacrifice his interests. He would take in hand no one cause, of the justice and legality of which he was not perfectly satisfied. On one occasion, a case being submitted to his consideration, which seemed to him to possess neither of these qualifications—"Pray," said he, with a grave countenance to the intending litigant, "what do you suppose me to be?"—"Why," answered the latter, "I understand you to be a lawyer."—"I

thought, sir," said Arnot, sternly, "you took me for a scoundrel!" The man withdrew, not a little abashed at this plump insinuation of the dishonesty of his intentions.

On another occasion, he was waited upon by a lady not remarkable either for youth, beauty, or good temper, for advice as to her best method of getting rid of the importunities of a rejected admirer, when, after telling her story, the following colloquy took place :—

"Ye maun ken, sir," said the lady, "that I am a namesake o' your ain. I am the chief o' the Arnots."

"Are you, by Jing?" replied Mr. Arnot.

"Yes, sir, I am; and ye maun just advise me what I ought to do with this impertinent fellow?"

"Oh, marry him by all means! It's the only way to get quit of his importunities."

"I would see him hanged first!" replied the lady, with emphatic indignation.

"Nay, madam," rejoined Mr. Arnot; "marry him directly, as I said before, and, by the lord Harry, he'll soon hang himself!"

The severe asthmatic complaint with which he was afflicted, subjected him latterly to much bodily suffering. When in great pain one day from difficulty of breathing, he was annoyed by the bawling of a man selling sand on the streets.

"The rascal!" exclaimed the tortured invalid, at once irritated by the voice, and envious of the power of lungs which occasioned it, "he spends as much breath in a minute as would serve me for a month."

Mr. Arnot had a habit of ringing his bell with great violence—a habit which much annoyed an old maiden-lady who resided in the floor above him. The lady complained of this annoyance frequently, and implored Mr. Arnot to sound his bell with a more delicate touch; but to no purpose. At length, annoyed in turn by her importunities, which he believed to proceed from mere querulousness, he gave her to understand, in reply to her last message, that he would drop the bell altogether. This he accordingly did; but in its place substituted a pistol, which he fired off whenever he desired the attendance of his servant, to the great alarm of the invalid, who now as earnestly besought the restitution of the bell as she had requested its discontinuance.

Mr. Arnot died on the 20th November 1786, in the thirty-seventh year of his age, exhibiting, in the closing scene of his life, a remarkable instance of the peculiarity of his character, and, it may be added, of his fortitude. For several weeks previous to his death, he regularly visited his appointed burial-place in South Leith Churchyard, to observe the progress of some masons whom he had employed to wall it in, and frequently expressed a fear that his death would take place before they should have completed the work.

JAMES BURNETT, LORD MONBODDO. This learned, ingenious, and amiable, but eccentric man, was one of the Judges of the Court of Session. He

was the eldest surviving son of James Burnett, Esq. of Monboddo, in the county of Kincardine, where he was born in the year 1714.

His lordship received his initiatory education chiefly at the school of Laurencekirk, and afterwards was sent to King's College, Aberdeen, where he distinguished himself by his proficiency in ancient literature, the study of which, in after life, became his ruling passion, and engrossed his attention to the entire exclusion of the productions of modern talent.

Having been early destined for the bar, he proceeded, after completing his literary education at Aberdeen, to Groningen, where he studied Civil Law for three years. At the end of this period he came to Edinburgh, where he happened to arrive on the forenoon of the day which concluded with the public murder, as it might be called, of Captain Porteous. When about to retire to rest, his lordship's curiosity was excited by a noise and tumult in the streets, and, in place of going to bed, he slipped to the door half-undressed, and with his nightcap on his head. He speedily got entangled in the crowd of passers-by, and was hurried along with them to the Grassmarket, where he became an involuntary witness of the last act of the tragedy. This scene made so deep an impression on his lordship that it not only deprived him of sleep during the remainder of the night, but induced him to think of leaving the city altogether, as a place unfit for a civilised being to live in. From this resolution, however, he was subsequently diverted, on hearing an explanation of the whole circumstances connected with the proceeding. His lordship frequently related this incident in after life, and on these occasions described with much force the effect which it had upon him.

Lord Monboddo passed his Civil Law examinations upon the 12th of February 1737, and being found duly qualified, was admitted a member of the Faculty of Advocates. In 1767 he was appointed a Lord of Session, and assumed the judicial designation by which he is now best known. It is a remarkable circumstance, that the seat on the bench occupied by his lordship was enjoyed by only three persons (himself being one) during the long period of one hundred and ten years.

Lord Monboddo's patrimonial estate was small, not producing during the greater part of his life more than £300 a year; yet of so generous and benevolent a disposition was he, that he would not raise his rents, nor dismiss a poor tenant for the sake of augmentation. It was his boast to have his lands more numerously peopled than any portion of equal extent in his neighbourhood.

When in the country, during the vacation of the Court of Session, he wore the dress of a plain farmer, and lived on a footing of familiarity and kindness with his tenantry that greatly endeared him to them.

His lordship's private life was spent in the enjoyment of domestic felicity and in the practice of all the social virtues. Though his habits were rigidly temperate, there were few things he so much delighted in as the convivial society of his friends. He was a zealous patron of merit, and amongst those who experienced his friendship was the poet Burns.

Notwithstanding the amiable character of Lord Monboddo, and his many

excellent qualities, he was not a little remarkable for his eccentricities, and for the strangeness and oddity of some of his opinions and sentiments. The most remarkable of these, as recorded by himself in his celebrated work on the Origin and Progress of Language, is the assertion that “the human race were originally gifted with tails!” It was in allusion to this extraordinary discovery, that Lord Kames, to whom he would on a certain occasion have conceded precedence, declined it, saying, “By no means, my lord, you must walk first that I may see your tail! ”

The work of his lordship, above alluded to, was severely handled in the *Edinburgh Magazine and Review*, by Dr. Gilbert Stuart, its editor, a severity which is said to have occasioned the downfall of that publication by the general offence which it gave.<sup>1</sup>

Many peculiarities also marked his lordship's conduct in his official capacity, for he brought them even into court with him. Amongst these was his never sitting on the bench with his brethren, but underneath with the clerks, a proceeding which is said to have been owing to the circumstance of their lordships having on one occasion decreed against him in a case when he was a pursuer for the value of a horse, and in which he pleaded his own cause at the bar.<sup>2</sup> Generally speaking, he was not inclined to assent to the decisions of his colleagues. On the contrary, he was often in the minority, and not unfrequently stood alone. He was nevertheless an eminent lawyer, and a most upright judge, and had more than once the gratification of having his decision confirmed in the House of Peers, when it was directly opposed to the unanimous opinion of his brethren.

It has been already mentioned that an exclusive admiration of classic literature, which extended to everything connected with it, formed a prominent feature in his lordship's character. This admiration he carried so far as to get up suppers in imitation of the ancients. These he called his *learned* suppers. He gave them once a week, and his guests generally were Drs. Black, Hutton, and Hope, and Mr. William Smellie, printer, including occasionally the son of the gentleman last mentioned, Mr. Alexander Smellie.

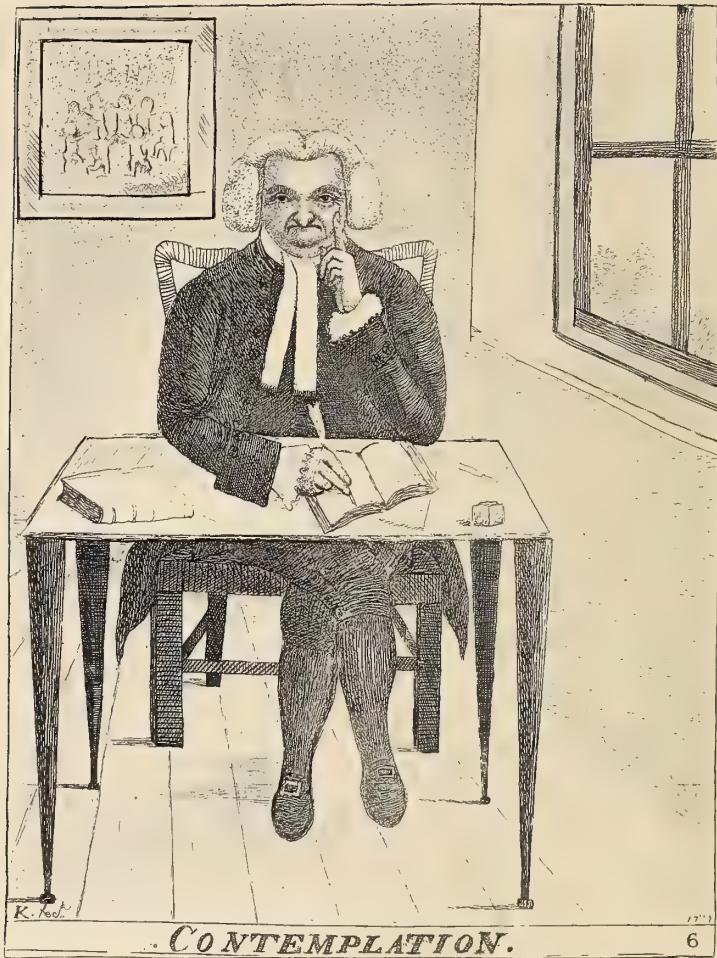
His lordship was in the habit for many years, during the vacations, of making a journey to London, where he enjoyed the society of some of the most eminent men of the period, then residing there, and frequently had the honour of personal interviews with the King, who took much pleasure in conversing with him.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> To this work Hume, the historian, was a contributor.

<sup>2</sup> This statement relative to the cause which induced his lordship to take his seat at the clerks' table, is somewhat doubtful; the deafness under which he laboured affords a much more satisfactory reason. The first time he sat there was upon occasion of the decision of the Douglas cause, when having been originally the leading counsel on behalf of Archibald Douglas (afterwards Lord Douglas), he felt a delicacy in giving his opinion from the bench, and preferred delivering it at the clerks' table. His speech in favour of the paternity is admitted to have been the most able one on that side of the question.

<sup>3</sup> During one of his visits to London (May 1785) he was present in the King's Bench, when, owing to a false rumour that the court-room was falling, the judges, and lawyers, and visitors, made a rush





CONTEMPLATION.

6

These journeys his lordship always performed on horseback, as he would on no account even enter a carriage, against the use of which he had two objections: First, that it was degrading to the dignity of human nature to be dragged at the tails of horses, instead of being mounted on their backs; and second, that such effeminate conveyances were not in common use amongst the ancients.

He continued these annual equestrian journeys to London till he was upwards of eighty years of age. On his last visit, which he made on purpose to take leave of all his friends in the metropolis, he was seized with a severe illness on the road, and would probably have perished on the way-side, had he not been overtaken accidentally by his friend Sir John Pringle, who prevailed upon him to travel the remainder of the stage in one of these vehicles for which he entertained so profound a contempt. Next day, however, he again mounted his horse, and finally arrived in safety and in good spirits at Edinburgh.

His lordship was very partial to a boiled egg, and often used to say, "Show me any of your French cooks who can make a dish like this."

Lord Monboddo died on the 27th May 1799, at the advanced age of eighty-five.

His character is thus summed up in the first four lines of an Epitaph written on him by James Tytler, an unfortunate son of genius who had experienced his benevolence:—

"If wisdom, learning, worth, demand a tear,  
Weep o'er the dust of great Monboddo here;  
A judge upright, to mercy still inclined,  
A gen'rous friend, a father fond and kind."

## No. VI.

### CONTEMPLATION.

THIS is another portrait of Lord Monboddo, representing him in his study, engaged, we may presume, in composing his "Essay on the Origin and Progress of Language."

In a corner of the apartment hangs a picture, in which his lordship's favourite notion of tails is illustrated by a group of little fellows adorned with these appendages.

to get out, his lordship took it very coolly, as the following anecdote, extracted from one of the journals of the day, evinces:—"In the curious *rout* of the *lawyers' corps*, it is singular that the only person who kept his seat was a venerable stranger. Old Lord Monboddo, one of the Scots Judges, was in the Court of King's Bench, and being short-sighted, and rather dull in his hearing, he sat still during the tumult, and did not move from his place. Afterwards being asked why he did not bestir himself to avoid the ruin, he coolly answered—"that he thought it was an *annual ceremony*, with which, as an *alien* to our *laws*, he had nothing to do!"

## No. VII.

## LORD GARDENSTONE.

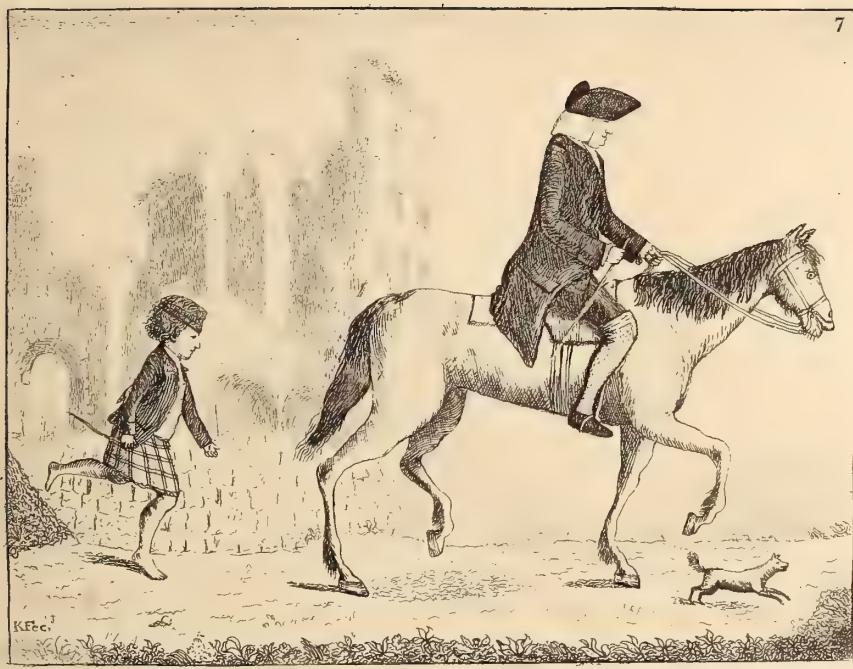
MR. FRANCIS GARDEN, judicially denominated Lord Gardenstone, was distinguished as a man of some talent and much eccentricity. Born in 1721, the second son of a Banffshire gentleman, he chose the profession of an advocate, and was admitted a member of Faculty upon the 14th of July 1744. On the 3d of July 1764, he was raised to the Bench. He is here represented in the latter part of life, as he usually appeared in proceeding from his house at Morningside (the one next the Asylum), to attend his duties in the Court. Kay has endeavoured to represent him as, what he really was, a very timid horseman, mounted, moreover, on a jaded old hack, which he had selected for its want of spirit, preceded by his favourite dog Smash, and followed by a Highland boy, whose duty it was to take charge of his Rosinante on arriving at the Parliament House.

In early life, Mr. Garden participated largely in the laxities of the times. He was one of those ancient heroes of the bar, who, after a night of hard drinking, without having been to bed, and without having studied their causes, would plead with great eloquence upon the mere strength of what they had picked up from the oratory of the opposite counsel.<sup>1</sup> In 1745, being in arms as a loyal subject, he was despatched by Sir John Cope, with another gentleman, to reconnoitre the approach of the Highland army from Dunbar. As the two volunteers passed the bridge of Musselburgh, they recollect a house in that neighbourhood where they had often regaled themselves with oysters and sherry, and the opportunity of repeating the indulgence being too tempting to be resisted, they thought no more of their military duty till a straggling Highland recruit entered and took them both prisoners. John Roy Stuart made a motion to hang them as spies; but their drunkenness joined so effectually with their protestations in establishing their innocence, that they were soon after liberated on parole.<sup>2</sup>

In his more mature years, Lord Gardenstone distinguished himself by a benevolent scheme of a somewhat unusual kind. Having, in 1762, purchased the estate of Johnstone, in Kincardineshire, he devoted himself for some years to

<sup>1</sup> At one time there seems to have been a speculation set on foot to provide a convenient place for *refreshing* the members of the College of Justice; for in the minutes of the Faculty of Advocates, 13th February 1741, there is an entry relative to a petition presented to the Dean and Faculty by James Balfour of Forrett, stating that he intended to build a coffee-house adjoining to the west side of the Parliament House, "for the conveniency and accommodation of the members of the College of Justice, and of the Senators of Court," and that he was anxious for the patronage of the Society. He also mentioned that he had petitioned the judges, who had *unanimously* approved of the project. A remit was made to the curators of the library, and to Messrs. Cross and Barclay, to consider the petition, and report whether it should be granted; but nothing appears to have been done by the committee.

<sup>2</sup> Lord Kames once took it upon him to reprove his brother judge for his love of the fair—“Gang to the deil, my lord!” was the rejoinder; “my fauts aye grow the langer the less; but yours (alluding to his parsimony) aye the langer the waur.”





the task of improving the condition of those who resided upon it. The village of Laurencekirk, then consisting of only a few houses, was taken under his especial patronage. He planned a new line of street, offered leases of small farms and of ground for building on extremely advantageous terms, built a commodious inn for the reception of travellers, founded a library for the use of the villagers, and established manufactures of various kinds. By some of his operations he lost largely, but this did not in the least abate his philanthropy, or for a moment interrupt the career of his benevolence. The manufacture of a very elegant kind of snuff-box, the hinges of which are styled "invisible," such as those made in Cumnock, Ayrshire, is still carried on in the village to a considerable extent.

His lordship's labours in this good work were crowned with the success they merited. His village grew rapidly, and before his death had attained a degree of importance and prosperity that exceeded his most sanguine expectations. Of the delight which Lord Gardenstone took in this benevolent project, a singularly pleasing expression occurs in a letter which he addressed to the inhabitants of Laurencekirk. "I have tried," he says, "in some measure a variety of the pleasures which mankind pursue; but never relished anything so much as the pleasure arising from the progress of my village."

In his lordship's anxiety to do everything in his power to invest his favourite village of Laurencekirk with attractions for strangers, he erected a handsome little building adjoining the inn as a museum, and filled it with fossils, rare shells, minerals, and other curiosities. Considering the facility of access, it is not surprising that these should from time to time disappear; not unfrequently the unsuspecting proprietor was imposed upon, by having his curiosities stolen and sold over again to himself! In this building there was also kept an album or commonplace book, in which visitors were invited to record whatever they thought fit, and, as might be expected, many of the entries were not of the choicest description. The apartment was likewise adorned by portraits of a number of the favourite original inhabitants of the village. The inn itself was kept by a favourite servant of his lordship's, named "Cream," who, as well as his wife, possessed a large portion of the *milk* of human kindness.

In the year 1785 his lordship succeeded, by the death of his elder brother, Alexander Garden of Troup, to the possession of the family estates, which were considerable. His acquisition of this additional wealth was marked by another circumstance, which strikingly evinces the natural generosity of his disposition. He remitted to the tenants all the debts due to him as heir to his brother.

On his succession to the family property, his lordship set out on a tour to the Continent, where he remained three years, traversing in this time great part of France, the Netherlands, Germany, and Italy. The results of his observations during this tour (which was made in part with the view of gratifying curiosity, but chiefly with that of improving his health, which was much impaired) he gave to the world in two volumes, entitled, "Travelling Memorandums made in a Tour upon the Continent of Europe in the year 1792." A third volume of this work was published after his death. About the same time he published

"Miscellanies in Prose and Verse," a collection of light fugitive pieces, partly of his own composition, and partly of others, the boon-companions of his youth. The best of these, however, are attributed to Lord Gardenstone himself.

Among the eccentricities of Lord Gardenstone was an attachment to the generation of pigs. He had reared one of these animals with so much affectionate care, that it followed him wherever he went like a dog. While it was little, he allowed it even to share his bed during the night. As it grew up, however, which no doubt it would do rapidly under such patronage, this was found inconvenient; and it was discarded from the bed, but permitted still to sleep in the apartment, where his lordship accommodated it with a couch composed of his own clothes, which he said kept it in a state of comfortable warmth.<sup>1</sup>

His lordship consumed immense quantities of snuff; requiring such a copious supply that he carried it in a leathern waistcoat pocket made for the purpose, and used to say that if he had a dozen noses he would give them *all* snuff. His use of this article was so liberal, that every fold in his waistcoat was filled with it; and it is said that from these repositories the villagers, when conversing with him, frequently helped themselves, without his knowledge, to a pinch.

In his dress his lordship was exceedingly plain, a circumstance which gave rise to an incident highly characteristic of him, which occurred at one time when he was returning from London.

Observing some young bucks taking inside tickets for the coach in which he was about to travel, he took his for the outside. On arriving at the end of the stage, where the passengers were to breakfast, his lordship, who had been shown into an inferior room, while his better-dressed fellow-travellers were conducted to the best, called the waiter, and desired him to carry his compliments to the young gentlemen, on whose philanthropy it was his object to make an experiment, and to request that they would permit him to have the honour of breaking fast with them. To this message precisely such an answer was returned as his lordship expected. It was that the gentlemen above stairs kept no company with *outside* passengers. Lord Gardenstone made no reply, but desired the waiter to bring him a *magnum bonum* of claret, and to send the landlord to share it with him, concluding with an order to get a post-chaise and four ready for him immediately. These commands, which very much amazed both mine host and his man, having been in due time complied with, his lordship paid his bill and departed, giving orders previously to his coachman so to manage as to arrive at the stage where his former fellow-travellers would dine, precisely at the same time with them, that they might witness the respect which should be paid to him by the landlord, to whom he was known. All this the young bucks accordingly saw, and having set on foot some inquiries on the subject, they soon discovered their mistake. With the view of atoning for their incivility, they now sent a polite card to Lord Gardenstone, begging his pardon for what had

<sup>1</sup> I remember a ludicrous enough anecdote of Lord Gardenstone. My father called on his lordship one morning, but he was not yet out of bed. He was shown into his bedroom, and in the dark, he stumbled over something which gave a terrible grunt. Upon which Lord Gardenstone said, "It is just a bit sow, poor beast, and I laid my *breeches* on it to keep it warm all night."—(A. S.)





happened in the morning, which they attributed to their ignorance of his quality, and requesting it, as a particular favour, that he would *honour them with his company to dinner*. To this polite card his lordship returned a verbal answer, that “he kept no company with people whose pride would not permit them to use their fellow-travellers with civility.”

The latter years of this amiable man’s life were spent in the discharge of the duties of his office of a judge; and the very last act of his public beneficence was the erection of the ornamental building that incloses St. Bernard’s Mineral Well, in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh.<sup>1</sup>

His lordship died at Morningside, near Edinburgh, on the 22d of July 1793, in the seventy-second year of his age.

### No. VIII.

#### HUGO ARNOT, ESQ., ADVOCATE, AND GINGERBREAD JOCK.

THE strange figure of Mr. Arnot appears to have been a favourite with Kay, who has here ironically represented him in the act of relieving a beggar, the fact being that he had a nervous antipathy to mendicants, and was at all times more disposed to cane them than to give them an alms.

John Duncan, the beggar here represented, was a poor creature, who, after having long endeavoured to support himself by the sale of gingerbread, sunk into mendicancy, which he usually practised at a corner of the Parliament Square.

Jock’s mode of conducting business while in active life, and before he had retired to enjoy the *otium cum dignitate*, expressed in so lively a manner in his countenance and general appearance in the Print, was to place four or five cakes of the commodity in which he dealt on their edges, at equal distances on the ground, he himself standing by with a short pole, which, on paying Jock a halfpenny, you were at liberty to discharge at the cakes, with the distinct understanding that all those you knocked down became yours. Jock’s traducers, however—for what public personage is without them?—allege that the cakes were so ingeniously placed, that it was next to impossible to knock any of them over at all, and that therefore your halfpenny, was, *a priori*, lost money. This ingenious mode of gaming is still well known under the appellation of “Roley-Poley.” As to John Duncan, little more is known of him than what is recorded of the antediluvian patriarchs, that he lived and died; although, indeed, after living the life of a beggar, he may be said to have died like a king, for his death resembled that of Herod, King of Judea.

<sup>1</sup> “I still continue,” says Mr. W. Smellie in a letter to Lord Gardenstone, 1790, “to worship your lordship’s Saint. Upon me he has performed the miracle of regeneration. From gratitude, therefore, I shall always pay my devotion to St. Bernard, and my penny to George Murdoch.”

## No. IX.

## DR. GLEN AND THE DAFT HIGHLAND LAIRD.

THE first of these figures represents a gentleman who enjoyed considerable celebrity in his day, at once for the amount of his wealth and the tenacity with which he held it. He had made a fortune abroad in the practice of his profession; and, in his latter years, returned to his native country—not to enjoy it. He was twice married. On the second occasion he had attained the discreet age of seventy; and it is said that, amongst the other soft and captivating things which the venerable lover whispered into the ear of the young lady on whom his choice had fallen, to induce her to receive his addresses, was the promise of a carriage. To this promise the Doctor was faithful. The carriage was got—but no horses. “That’s more than I bargained for,” said the Doctor; “I promised a carriage, and there it is; but I promised no horses, neither shall you have them.” And here again the Doctor was as good as his word. The consequence was a quarrel with his young wife, aggravated by certain attempts on her part to revolutionise his house. The result may be anticipated—three weeks after the marriage a separation took place by mutual consent, the husband settling a sufficient aliment on his affectionate spouse.

There is another anecdote of the Doctor’s happy talent for saving, but of so incredible and absurd a character, that, assured as we are of its truth, we have some hesitation in mentioning it. It is said that, on the death of his wife—the first, we presume—he adopted the ingenious expedient of attempting to procure a *second-hand* coffin to hold her remains, for lessening the funeral expenses on this melancholy occasion.

At a very advanced period of life, the Doctor was prevailed upon by a friend, but by what process of reasoning is not known, nor can be conjectured, to enter the society of Freemasons—a step which not a little surprised every one who knew him, or was aware of his penurious habits. How much was their surprise increased, when they found the Doctor entering, as he did, into all the spirit of the association, whether in its business or its pleasures, with an ardour and enthusiasm unequalled by the youngest member! The Doctor became, in truth, in so far at least as the circumstance of his connexion with the brethren was concerned, a totally changed man. He headed deputations, presided at lodges, and became, in short, the leading spirit of the fraternity. The members of the Lodge of St. Andrew’s, to which he belonged, and which was at this juncture rather barren of funds, early saw, in the Doctor’s new-born passion, a very pleasant and rational prospect of effecting an improvement in their exchequer. Without loss of time they flattered the Doctor’s vanity by electing him their Master, and ere long





they succeeded in obtaining from him no less a sum, it is said, than one hundred pounds sterling.

The Doctor was a regular attendant at church, and always contributed to the plate. That his charity on such occasions might be duly appreciated by those who were in attendance, instead of throwing in his halfpence in the usual careless way, he piled them up into one solid massive column of copper, and gently placing the pillar down, left it, a conspicuous monument of his benevolence.

One act of public spirit, however, does mark the Doctor's life, and if his motive in performing it, as was uncharitably reported at the time, was vanity, one cannot help being struck with the ingenuity which directed him on the occasion. He presented the governors of the Orphan Hospital with a bell! His fame was thus literally sounded throughout the city; yet, lest any should have been ignorant of the gift, he took care when in company, on hearing it ring, to advert to its fine tone, and thus lead the way to a narrative of his generosity.

The other figure in the Print represents Laird Robertson holding up one of his sticks; the undermost figure represents Principal Robertson; the one on the top the eccentric Dr. James Graham, no great favourite of Dr. Glen's. Being once troubled with sore eyes, after in vain trying the prescriptions of several physicians, he applied to Dr. Graham, who cured him in a very short time, for which he expressed great gratitude. Wishing to make him some remuneration, he consulted some of the young members of the Faculty; and, as the most genteel way of doing what he wished, they recommended him to invite the Doctor and a few of his own friends to dinner in Fortune's (the most fashionable tavern at that time), and provide himself with a handsome purse, containing thirty guineas or so, and offer it to the Doctor, which they assured him he would not accept. They accordingly met, and after a few bottles of wine had been drunk, the old Doctor called Dr. Graham to the window, and offered him the purse, which he at once accepted, and, with a very low bow, thanked him kindly for it. The Doctor was so chagrined that he soon left the company, who continued till a pretty early hour enjoying themselves at his expense.

The father of Dr. Glen was a native of the west of Scotland, and had three sons, all of whom were prosperous in the world. One of these gentlemen was appointed governor of one of the West India Islands, where he amassed a large fortune, of which he left £30,000 to his niece, the daughter of the third brother, who ultimately succeeded to the reversion of the Doctor's property. This amiable lady was subsequently married to the late Earl of Dalhousie, father to the present noble Earl.

Dr. Glen enjoyed, by purchase, an annuity from the city of Edinburgh, of which he lived so long to reap the benefit, that the magistrates gave up all hopes of his ever dying at all, and began to consider him as one of the perpetual burdens of the city. He, however, died in 1786.

No. X.

### A SLEEPY CONGREGATION.

THE wit of this Print consists in representing a set of citizens, well known as little addicted to church-going, listening to a discourse from the most evangelical clergyman in the city, in a place of worship whose ordinary congregation was noted above all others for their ultra-Presbyterianism. The clergyman is the celebrated Dr. Webster, the precentor John Campbell, the place of worship the Tolbooth Church, being that in which Dr. Webster was the stated clergyman. The church was the south-west portion of St. Giles's, and was so designated from its having been used in the reign of James VI. as a town-house, the supreme civil court being usually, and the Parliament occasionally, held in it. The congregation in Dr. Webster's time were known by the appellation of "the Tolbooth Whigs," as making the nearest approach in practice and doctrine to the severe spirits of the days of Cameron and Cargill. It may well be supposed with what mirth the wit of Mr. Kay would be hailed by those to whom the character of both the real and the imaginary congregation was familiar.

Dr. Alexander Webster was the son of an equally distinguished preacher, who had suffered in the persecuting times, and was afterwards clergyman in this very church.<sup>1</sup> Born in 1707, and educated to his father's profession, he was, at an early age, ordained to the charge of Culross in Fife, where he made himself so remarkable for his eloquence, his piety, and generally for the fidelity, activity and diligence, with which he discharged the duties of the pastoral office, that he received a unanimous call, four years after his first ordination, from the congregation of the Tolbooth Church, to which charge he was inducted on the 2d June 1737.

In this situation, which he held for the long period of forty-seven years, Dr. Webster continued to practise, on a scale extending with his opportunities, all those useful and amiable qualities which had distinguished him at the outset of

<sup>1</sup> The elder Webster was asserted by the Jacobites to be mad. There is a curious "Godlie Ballad," lately privately printed from a MS. in the Advocates' Library, of which he is the subject, and in which he is most severely handled. It commences—

"Great Meldrum is gone, let Webster succeed,  
A rare expounder of Scripture and creed,  
Who's learning is nonsense, who's temper is bad,  
It's predestination that made him so mad.

By algebra he makes it appear to be true,  
Three deils and a half possest everie sow.

Though his head be light, his carcass is heavy,  
His bellie a midden of sack, flesh, and gracie," etc. etc. etc.



IK. 1725

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his career. He soon became one of the most popular men of his day in the city—esteemed for the generosity and benevolence of his disposition, respected for his worth, and admired for his genius and talents.

Amongst the innumerable schemes for the benefit of the destitute, and of suffering humanity in all its forms of misery, which this excellent man either suggested or promoted, the most conspicuous was the establishment of a fund for the widows of the clergy of the Church of Scotland; an institution which owes its existence chiefly to his benevolence, and its admirable system to his singular powers of arithmetical calculation, a department of intellectual labour in which he greatly excelled.

With all his other popular qualities, Dr. Webster possessed a great degree of firmness and intrepidity of character, of which he exhibited a very striking instance when the rebels were in possession of Edinburgh. At that crisis, when most other men of his political sentiments and notoriety would have sought safety in silence or retirement, he boldly mounted his pulpit, and employed his eloquence in denouncing the cause of the Chevalier, and in urging his hearers to retain their fidelity to the House of Hanover.

Nor was his genius, sound judgment, and excellent taste, recognised only in matters connected with his clerical capacity. They were so well known, and so highly appreciated, that he was uniformly consulted by the magistrates of Edinburgh in all public undertakings.

Dr. Webster was married to Miss Mary Erskine, a young lady of fortune, daughter of Colonel John Erskine (brother of Sir Charles Erskine of Alva, Bart.), by Euphemia, daughter of William Cochrane, Esq., of Ochiltree. She was nearly related to the family of Dundonald, and was courted by some of the first Peers of the realm. This connexion originated in a somewhat curious manner. During his residence at Culross, Mr. Webster was employed by a friend to procure for him the good graces of Miss Erskine, who then resided at Valleyfield, in the neighbourhood. This duty he faithfully performed, and urged his friend's suit with all the eloquence he was master of, but to no purpose. At length, wearied with his importunities in the cause of another, and at the same time prepossessed by his own figure and accomplishments, both of which were eminently attractive, Miss Erskine plumply remarked to him, "You would come better speed, Sandy, if you would speak for yourself;" and on this hint Mr. Webster did indeed speak, and to such purpose, that they were shortly afterwards married.

This union, though thus brought about by a circumstance somewhat out of rule on the lady's part, was a happy one—Dr. Webster's affection for his wife never suffering the slightest abatement of that ardour so forcibly expressed in the following stanza, addressed to her soon after their marriage:—

"When I see thee I love thee, but hearing adore,  
I wonder, and think you a woman no more,  
Till, mad with admiring, I cannot contain,  
And, kissing those lips, find you woman again."

No less remarkable for his wit and convivial powers, than for his more solid qualities, Dr. Webster was as great a favourite at the social board as in the pulpit.

He was particularly fond of claret. A friend on whom he called one day, and who was aware of his predilection for this liquor, said he would give him a treat, adding that he had a bottle of claret which was upwards of forty years old. The bottle was accordingly produced, but proved to be only a pint bottle.

"Dear me," said the disappointed Doctor, taking it up in his hand, "but it's unco little o' its age!"

Upon another occasion, after he had, with a few friends, not spared the bottle, some one inquired, "What would his parishioners say if they met him thus?"—"What?" says the Doctor, "they wadna believe their ain een although they saw it."

This excellent and much-respected man died on the 25th January 1784, in the seventy-seventh year of his age.

#### No. XI.

### DR. JAMES GRAHAM GOING ALONG THE NORTH BRIDGE IN A HIGH WIND.

HE is here represented in the dress in which he attended the funeral of Dr. Gilbert Stuart, who died 28th August 1786, in white linen clothes and black silk stockings, his usual attire. The lady walking before him is said to resemble a Miss Dunbar, sister of Sir James Dunbar, Bart.

Dr. James Graham was born at the head of the Cowgate, Edinburgh, 23d June 1745.

His father, Mr. William Graham, saddler in Edinburgh, was born in Burnt-island in 1710. He married in 1738, in Edinburgh, Jean Graham (born 1715), an English lady; they had issue three daughters and two sons. The eldest daughter was married to a Mr. Smith; the second to the celebrated Dr. Arnold of Leicester, Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh; and the third to Mr. Begbie, town smith. James was the eldest son; both he and his younger brother William studied medicine. The two brothers, in their early years, were not unfrequently mistaken for one another, from their strong family likeness, and from following the same profession. William, after practising some time as physician, abandoned medicine entirely, and entered into holy orders. He was an Episcopalian, and married the celebrated writer, Mrs. Catharine Macaulay,<sup>1</sup> sister to Alderman Sawbridge; she died at Binfield, in

<sup>1</sup> This lady's writings were so enthusiastically admired by the Rev. Dr. Wilson, prebendary of Westminster, that during her lifetime he caused a statue of her, as the Goddess of Liberty, to be set up in the chancel of his church in Walbrook, which was, however, removed at his death, by his successor in office.





June 1791. Mr. William Graham is still alive (July 1836), being eighty-one years of age. He resides in Leicestershire, where he is deservedly held in high estimation.

Dr. James Graham, after having finished his studies in Edinburgh, went to England, and began business in Pontefract, where, in the year 1770, he married Miss Mary Pickering, daughter of a gentleman of that place, by whom he had a son and two daughters. His eldest daughter was married to the late Mr. Stirling, minister of Dunblane, a very accomplished lady, who is still alive (1837). The other daughter died in the apartments of the Observatory on the Calton Hill, of consumption, about four years before her father.

After residing some time in England, Dr. Graham went to America, where he figured as a philanthropic physician, travelling for the benefit of mankind, to administer relief, in the most desperate diseases, to patients whose cases had hitherto puzzled the ordinary practitioners. Having the advantage of a good person, polite address, and agreeable conversation, he got into the first circles, particularly in New England, where he made a great deal of money. He then returned to Britain; and, after making an excursion through England, during which, according to his own account, he was eminently successful in curing many individuals whose cases had been considered desperate, he visited Scotland, and was employed by people of the first quality, who were tempted to put themselves under his care by the fascination of his manner and the fame of his wondrous cures. So popular was he, that he might have settled in Edinburgh, to great advantage, but he preferred returning to England. He fixed his abode in the metropolis, where he set on foot one of the most original and extravagant institutions that could well be figured, the object of which was for "preventing barrenness, and propagating a much more strong, beautiful, active, healthy, wise, and virtuous race of human beings, than the present puny, insignificant, foolish, peevish, vicious, and nonsensical race of Christians, who quarrel, fight, bite, devour, and cut one another's throats about they know not what."<sup>1</sup>

The "Temple of Health," as he was pleased to term it, was an establishment of a very extraordinary description, and one in which all the exertions of the painter and statuary—all the enchantments of vocal and instrumental music—all powers of electricity and magnetism, were called into operation to enliven and heighten the scene. In a word, all that could delight the eye or ravish the ear—all that could please the smell, give poignancy to the taste, or gratify the touch, were combined to give effect to his scheme—at least such was his own account.

Of his numerous puffs on the subject, one may be selected by way of a specimen:—

"TEMPLE OF HEALTH AND HYMEN, PALL-MALL, NEAR THE KING'S PALACE.

" If there be one human being, rich or poor, male, female, or of the doubtful gender, in or near this great metropolis of the world, who has not had the

<sup>1</sup> Such are the *ipsissima verba* of one of the Doctor's advertisements.

good fortune and the happiness of hearing the celebrated lecture, and of seeing the grand celestial state bed, the magnificent electrical apparatus, and the supremely brilliant and unique decorations of this magical edifice, of this enchanting Elysian palace!—where wit and mirth, love and beauty—all that can delight the soul, and all that can ravish the senses—will hold their court, this, and every evening this week, in chaste and joyous assemblage! let them now come forth, or for ever afterwards let them blame themselves, and bewail their irremediable misfortune.”<sup>1</sup>

In this way his numerous auditors were properly prepared for his lectures, which were delivered in the most elegant and graceful manner. The following letter, his own production perhaps, from a periodical work of the time, descriptive of his Temple and lectures, is curious:—

“TO THE EDITOR OF THE WESTMINSTER MAGAZINE.

“*Audi alteram partem.*

“SIR—I have heard many persons exclaim against Dr. Graham’s Hymeneal Lectures, and reprobate him in the most opprobrious terms; but having not been myself to see his Temple of Hymen, I thought it unjust to censure or join in condemning that which I had never seen, or him whom I had never heard. Curiosity (a passion remarkable in the people of England) prompted me to go with an intimate friend and pay a visit to the Doctor, whom I found attended by about forty gentlemen who were intent on listening to his connubial precepts. I gave attention, and determined to judge impartially of what I heard as well as saw, and the following is the result of my unprejudiced observations:—

“His rooms are fitted up in a very elegant and superb manner, far beyond any thing I ever saw, and must have cost him a very considerable sum of money. A statue of Beauty, or *Venus de Medicis*, is the only object that appeared to me censurable, as likely to excite unchaste ideas. His lecture is well adapted to the subject he treats on, and is interspersed with many judicious remarks, well worthy the attention of the Legislature, to prevent prostitution and encourage matrimony. The nature of the subject naturally obliges him to border on what is generally termed indelicacy; but he always endeavours to guard his audience against imbibing sentiments in any respect repugnant to virtue, chastity, and modest deportment; he earnestly recommends marriage, as honourable in all, and as strongly execrates prostitution and criminality; wherein then is he to blame?

“BOB SHORT.

“December 1781.”

<sup>1</sup> The articles with which the Temple of Health, in London, was furnished were subsequently removed to Edinburgh, and offered for sale by Dr. Graham, in the third house from the High Street, on the South Bridge.





J. KAY *Invent d. Feud.*

12 1776

## No. XII.

## DR. JAMES GRAHAM LECTURING IN EDINBURGH.

IN Spring 1783, Doctor Graham again paid a visit to his native city, and for the first time gave his fellow-citizens a lecture, which the Magistrates of Edinburgh deemed improper for public discussion, and accordingly endeavoured to suppress by the arm of power. The Doctor immediately published "an appeal to the public," in which he attacked the Magistrates, and particularly the Lord Provost, John Grieve, Esq. For this, the Procurator-Fiscal raised a criminal complaint in the Bailie Court against him, and as his real prosecutors were his judges—the result was, his being mulcted in £20, and imprisoned till the fine was paid. He suffered, however, no very tedious imprisonment, as his supporters collected the money amongst themselves. He also continued to give his eccentric lectures as long as the public curiosity lasted ; and to induce people to hear his lectures, the admission being three shillings, he promised each person a book worth six shillings—viz. a copy of his lectures ! The admission was reduced subsequently to two shillings, and lastly to one. The following advertisement was circulated by him in December 1783 :—

" DOCTOR GRAHAM desires to inform the Ladies and Gentlemen of Edinburgh, that at the earnest desire of many respectable persons, he proposes to favour them on Monday evening next, the 27th instant, and the three following evenings, with A LECTURE on the simplest, most rational, and most effectual means of preserving uninterrupted bodily Health, and the most delightful mental sunshine or serenity to the very longest period of our Mortal Existence : Teaching them how to build up the human Body into a fair and firm Temple of Health, and to repose the Soul on the all-blessing Bosom of that pure, temperate, rational, and Philosophical Religion !—which alone is accepted of God !!! and truly useful to all his Creatures. The Lecture being therefore at once Medical, Moral, and Religious ; the Technical Terms and nonsensical jargon of the followers of the Medical Trade or Farce being avoided, and the whole treated in a plain, practical, and useful manner, DR. GRAHAM trusts it will prove perfectly satisfactory, and of the highest importance to the health and happiness, temporal and eternal, of every sober and intelligent person who honours him with their company ; as the precepts and instructions proposed to be delivered in this long and pathetic Lecture cannot fail, if duly practised, to preserve them in health, strength, and happiness, through the course of a long, useful, and truly honourable life *here* ; and to prepare them for the enjoyment of eternal felicity *hereafter*.

" The Lecture will be delivered on MONDAY EVENING next, the 27th, and the three following evenings, precisely at Seven o'clock, in St. Andrew's Chapel, foot of Carrubber's Close, next to the New Bridge.

" Admission only One Shilling.

"Ladies are requested to come early, in order to be agreeably accommodated with seats, as the Lecture will begin *exactly* at Seven o'clock.

"N.B.—Dr. G. has not the least intention of lecturing any more for several years in Edinburgh than the above four nights; and if the Chapel is not pretty full the two first nights, he will not repeat the lecture as proposed the two last nights, viz. on Wednesday and Thursday; and as the shilling paid for admission can only defray the various expenses, Dr. G. hopes that the inhabitants of Edinburgh will esteem these lectures as very great and important favours conferred upon them.

"December, 1783.

"All Dr. G.'s books and pamphlets are to be had at the Doctor's house, and at Mr. Brown's, bookseller, Bridge Street."

While his Temple of Health was in its glory, it cannot be doubted that such an exhibition, lauded as it was on all hands in the most extravagant terms, must have produced a great deal of money in such a city as London, where every species of quackery is sure to meet with support and encouragement; but Doctor Graham, instead of realising a fortune, deeply involved himself by the great expense he was put to in maintaining the establishment in proper splendour. In his own expenditure he was very moderate; for he not only abstained from wine, spirits, and all strong liquors, but even from animal food—and, consistently with this mode of life, he recommended the same practice to others; and whilst confined in the Jail of Edinburgh, for his attack on the civic authorities, he preached—Sunday, August 17, 1783—a discourse upon Isaiah, xl. 6, "All flesh is grass;" in which he strongly inculcates the propriety of abstinence from animal food. In this odd production, of which two editions were afterwards published, he says, "I bless God! my friends! that he has given me grace and resolution to abstain totally from flesh and blood—from all liquors but cold water and balsamic milk—and from all inordinate sensual indulgences. Thrice happy! supremely blessed is the man who, through life, abstains from these things; who, like me, washes his body and limbs every night and morning with pure cold water—who breathes continually, summer and winter, day and night, the free open cool air—and who, with unfeigned and active benevolence towards every thing that hath life, fears and worships God in sincerity and in truth."

In addition to the peculiarities pointed out by the Doctor in his discourse, he dissented in many other respects from the ordinary usages of mankind. He wore no woollen clothes; he slept on a hair-mattress, without feather-bed or blankets, with all the windows open; he said, and perhaps with some degree of truth, that most of our diseases are owing to too much heat:—and he carried his cool regimen to such an extent, that he was in terms with the tacksman of the King's Park, for liberty to build a house upon the top of Arthur's Seat, in order to try how far he could bear the utmost degree of cold that the climate

of Edinburgh affords ; but, though the tacksman was willing, the noble proprietor would not listen to the project.

Amongst other eccentric plans recommended to his patients was that of earth-bathing,—which was neither more nor less than burying them alive up to the neck in the earth, in which position they were to remain for ten or twelve hours. He tried this extraordinary remedy upon himself and one of his daughters, and actually induced his brother-in-law to follow their example. Other persons were also found simple enough to submit to this new species of temporary sepulture.

In 1787, this singular being appeared in a new character, as a special delegate from Heaven to announce the Millennium. He not only styled himself “The Servant of the Lord, O. W. L.” i.e. “Oh, Wonderful Love,” but attempted to begin a new chronology—dating his bills such a day of the first month of the New Jerusalem Church ; but before the coming of the second month the prophet was, by order of the Magistrates, put under restraint, not indeed in prison, but in his own house, from whence he, some months afterwards, removed to the north of England. His religious frenzy appears to have lasted some time ; and we learn from the following extract, copied from the *Whitehaven Packet*, that a year afterwards his mind still wandered :—

“WHITEHAVEN—Tuesday morning, Dr. James Graham was sent off to Edinburgh in the custody of two constables. This unfortunate man had, for some days past, discovered such marks of insanity as made it advisable to secure him.<sup>1</sup>—*August 22, 1788.*”

His death took place somewhat suddenly, in his house, opposite to the Archers’ Hall, upon the 23d June 1794—it was occasioned by the bursting of a bloodvessel. He was buried in the Greyfriars’ churchyard, Edinburgh. His widow survived him about seven years, and died at Ardwick, near Manchester, in the year 1801.

His circumstances during the latter period of his existence were far from affluent. To one of his publications, however, he was indebted for an annuity of fifty pounds for life ; for it happened that a gentleman in Geneva, who had perused it, found his health so much improved by following the advice of its author, that, out of gratitude, he presented him with a bond for the yearly payment of that sum.

With all his eccentricities, he had a benevolent and charitable disposition, and his conduct towards his parents was exemplary. Even when in his “high and palmy state,” he paid them every attention. Whilst in Edinburgh, he took

<sup>1</sup> Whether he ever got entirely quit of his religious fancies, is uncertain ; and in a very complete and curious collection of tracts, advertisements, etc., by, or relative to, Dr. Graham, occurring in the late Mr. John Stevenson’s sale catalogue for 1825, there is a “manuscript written expressly for Dr. Graham, regarding his religious concerns, by Benjamin Dockray, a Quaker at Newton, near Carlisle, in 1790,” which would seem to indicate that his mind, on that head, was not at that date entirely settled.

them every morning in his carriage, which was one of the most splendid description, for an airing, attended by servants in gorgeous liveries ; and these worthies—old-fashioned Presbyterian Whigs of the strictest kind—were infinitely gratified by the “pomp and vanities” with which they were surrounded.

It would be very difficult to give an exact catalogue of Dr. Graham’s works. Such as we have seen are annexed. The list is far from complete.

I. The General State of the Medical and Chirurgical Practice exhibited ; shewing it to be inadequate, ineffectual, absurd, and ridiculous. London, 1779. 12mo.

This passed through several editions ; and an abstract was published at the small charge of Sixpence.

II. Travels and Voyages in Scotland, England, and Ireland—including a Description of the Temple of Health and Grand Electrical Apparatus, etc., which cost upwards of £12,000. London, 1783. 12mo.

III. Private Medical Advice to Ladies and Gentlemen—to those especially who are not blessed with children—sealed up, price One Guinea, alone, at the Temple of Health and of Hymen. The whole comprised in eight large folio pages.

IV. The Christian’s Universal Prayer—to which are prefixed a Discourse on the Duty of Praying, and a Short Sketch of Dr. Graham’s Religious Principles and Moral Sentiments.

V. Hebe<sup>1</sup> Vestina’s Celebrated Lecture ; as delivered by her from the Electrical Throne, in the Temple of Health, in London. Price 2s. 6d.

VI. A Discourse delivered on Sunday, August 17, 1783, in the Tolbooth of Edinburgh, by Dr. James Graham, of the Temple of Health in London, while he was, by the most cruel and most unlawful stretch of power, imprisoned there for a pretended libellous Hand-bill and Advertisement, which was said to be published by him, against the Magistrates of that City. Isaiah, chapter xl. verse 6—“All flesh is grass.” Edinburgh, 1783. 4to.

VII. The Principal Grounds, Basis, Argument, or SOUL, of the New Celestial Curtain (or Reprehensory) Lecture, most humbly addressed to all Crowned Heads, Great Personages, and Others, whom it may concern. By James Graham, M.D. London, 1786.

VIII. A New and Curious Treatise of the Nature and Effects of Simple Earth, Water, and Air, when applied to the Human Body : How to Live for many Weeks, Months, and Years, without Eating any thing whatever, etc. By James Graham, M.D. London, 1793.

<sup>1</sup> Vestina, the “rosy goddess of health,” was a very beautiful female, who appeared on a pedestal at the lecture. She was, upon the 6th September 1791, married to Sir William Hamilton, K.B. She died at Calais in great pecuniary distress, 16th of January 1815.





THE FORTUNATE ENLISTE<sup>T</sup>

## No. XIII.

## JAMES MACRAE, ESQ.

JAMES MACRAE, Esq., of Holmains, had the misfortune to obtain a celebrity, by no means enviable, as a duellist. He was a capital shot, and, it was said, obtained his proficiency by firing at a barber's block, kept by him for that purpose. In April 1790, the event occurred which had the effect of exiling him from his native land. The following account of the affair is taken from the *Scots Magazine* :—

## “ DUEL BETWIXT SIR GEORGE RAMSAY AND MR. MACRAE.

“ On Wednesday the 7th of April, Captain Macrae, thinking himself insulted by a footman of Lady Ramsay's at the theatre, beat him severely. Mr. Macrae the next day met Sir George Ramsay in the street, when he told him he was sorry to have been obliged to correct a servant of his last night at the playhouse. Sir G. answered, the servant had been a short time with him, was Lady Ramsay's footman, and that he did not consider himself to have any concern in the matter. Mr. Macrae then said he would go and make an apology to Lady Ramsay, which he did. On Monday the 12th, the footman commenced an action against Mr. Macrae. On Tuesday the 13th, Mr. Macrae sent the following letter to Sir G. Ramsay :—

“ Marionville, Tuesday, 2 o'clock.

“ ‘ SIR—I received last night a summons, at the instance of James Merry, your servant, whose insolent behaviour to me at the theatre on Wednesday last I was obliged to punish severely, which was the reason of my not insisting on your turning him off ; but as he has chosen to prosecute me, I must now insist that he shall either drop the prosecution, or that you shall immediately turn him off. As to his being Lady Ramsay's servant, it is of no consequence to me ; I consider you as the master of your family, and expect what I have now demanded shall be complied with. I am, sir, your humble servant,

“ JAMES MACRAE.

“ Addressed, ‘Sir George Ramsay, St. Andrew Square.’

“ Sir George returned the following answer :—

“ ‘ SIR—I am just now favoured with your letter. I was ignorant that my servant had commenced a prosecution until your letter informed me. He meets no encouragement from me ; and I hope, on considering the matter farther, you will not think it incumbent on me to interfere in any respect, especially as the man at present is far from being well. I am, sir, yours, etc.

“ Tuesday, half past three.

“ ‘ GEORGE RAMSAY.’

"Mr. Macrae's friend, Mr. Amory, called at Sir George's house in the evening, and delivered the following letter:—

"'Marionville, Tuesday.

"'SIR—I must now once more insist on your servant being turned off; and have in consequence sent my friend, Mr. Amory, to know your final determination. In case you refuse to comply with what I have demanded of you, he will inform you of the opinion I entertain of your conduct. I am, sir, your humble servant,

"'JAS. MACRAE.'

"Addressed as before.

"The following narrative, with the above letters, were delivered by Sir George Ramsay, on Tuesday night, to his friend, to be made public, in case any accident should happen the next morning, and is in his own handwriting:—

"Upon Sir George's reading the above letter, he told Mr. Amory that no good reason had been assigned to him for turning off his servant; and, unless that should be made appear, he certainly would not do so. Upon which Mr. Amory informed Sir George, that the message he was to deliver to him was, that Mr. Macrae looked upon him not as a *gentleman*, but, the contrary, as a *scoundrel*. Upon this Sir George said farther conversation was unnecessary with him; all that remained was to agree about a place of meeting; and he begged Mr. Amory to appoint a coffee-house to meet him at, rather than come to his own house. Sir George met Mr. Amory at Bayle's at nine, and received the following message:—

"Sir George Ramsay met Mr. Amory at Bayle's at the hour of nine, when he was informed by Mr. Amory, that Mr. Macrae desired Sir George to meet him at Ward's, Musselburgh, at the hour of twelve the following day, Wednesday the 14th. This message is in Mr. Amory's handwriting.

"Mr. Amory followed Sir George after he had left Bayle's, and informed him that Mr. Macrae considered Sir George as the challenger; that he, Mr. Amory, had made a mistake in fixing the place; and that, upon consideration, he thought Sir George ought to have done so. Sir George answered, that it had nothing to do with the main point at present, the time and place were fixed.

"That evening, Mr. Macrae, understanding that high words had passed betwixt Sir George and Mr. Amory, applied to another gentleman to attend him the next day; this he declined as a second; but, at Mr. Macrae's request, agreed to go with him to Musselburgh, in order, if possible, to accommodate matters.

"Wednesday the 14th.—On the parties meeting at Musselburgh, Mr. Macrae offered, if Sir George would dismiss his servant, he, Mr. Macrae, would then fully apologise for the expression and the message delivered by his friend to Sir George. This Sir George would not agree to; nor did his friend advise him to do so.

"Sir George's friend offered, that if Mr. Macrae would make an ample apology for the expression and the message delivered by his friend to Sir George, he would pledge himself that Sir George would make the servant stop the prosecution, or that he would dismiss him his service. Mr. Macrae did not agree to this, nor did his friend advise it. Every endeavour to conciliate having failed, and two hours having passed without being able to bring the parties to an accommodation, they went to the ground, and having taken their distance, about fourteen yards, they both fired at the same instant, by signal, as had been previously agreed upon. Sir George Ramsay received a wound in his body, of which he died on Friday morning, the 16th. Mr. Macrae and his friend went immediately from the field. Have since heard that Mr. Macrae was slightly wounded in the cheek. We have only to add, that no men ever behaved more like men of honour than they did on the occasion."

There can be little doubt that Captain Macrae in this unfortunate affair was highly blameable; and so strong was the public feeling against him, that his counsel advised him not to stand a trial, for fear of the result. He therefore fled to France, and for some time took up his residence at the Hôtel de la Dauphine in Paris. He was cited upon criminal letters, dated 26th May 1790, to take his trial for murder upon the 26th of July following.<sup>1</sup> Sentence of outlawry was pronounced against him on that day for not appearing. This was followed by letters of denunciation, which were duly executed on the 28th of that month, and recorded next day. Previous to his outlawry, he took the precaution to convey his estate to trustees, who subsequently, but in conformity with his instructions, executed an entail of it. Before his exile, he married Miss Maria Cecilia Le Maistre, a lady by whom he had a son and a daughter. This unhappy gentleman died abroad on the 16th January 1820.

The action brought by the servant was not finally determined till the month of February 1792, when the Sheriff having awarded damages and expenses, his judgment was brought under review of the Court of Session, and the cause came on before the Inner-House. The Court unanimously remitted the cause *simpliciter* to the Sheriff—thus affirming his judgment. There was much contradiction in the evidence; and although it was proved that the servant had given a good deal of abusive language to Captain Macrae, yet their Lordships were of opinion that no abusive language whatever could justify the act of beating a man to the effusion of his blood. Some of the Judges indeed thought that there was, in determining the cause, a *conflictus legum*, and that it fell to be decided—in one way if they took it up, on the laws of the land—and in another, on what are called the laws of honour; but the Lord President observed, that as they were sitting as judges of a court of law, not of chivalry, they were bound to decide by the former.

<sup>1</sup> Sir George Ramsay, although married, left no issue, and was succeeded in his title and estate by his brother William. The indictment runs in name of "Dame Eleanor Fraser, relict of the deceased Sir George Ramsay of Banff, Baronet, and Sir William Ramsay of Banff, Baronet, his brother-german.

Before his flight, Captain Macrae resided at Marionville, a villa near Edinburgh, where he had an apartment fitted up for private theatricals,<sup>1</sup> a species of amusement by no means common in Scotland, and for his attachment to which he was greatly censured.

A story is told of him while residing there, which does credit to his generosity of disposition. One of his servants having done something in a manner that did not please him, he struck him, whereupon the man muttered that "he durst not strike him so, if he were one of his fellow-servants in the hall."—"Oh!" said the Captain, "if you are for a boxing-match, I shall give you a fair chance for it; only you must not strike me in the face."

This being agreed upon, down stairs they went, and fought till the Captain owned he had got enough, adding, "You are a bit of good stuff, sirrah; there are five guineas for you." The servant with great humility remarked, he would be content to be thrashed for as much every day.

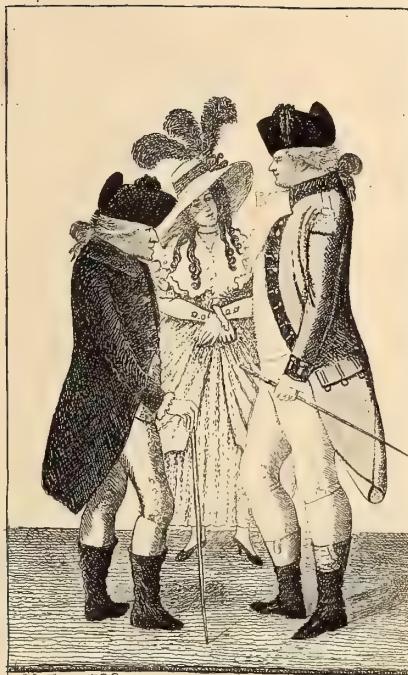
#### No. XIV.

### CAPTAIN PAGE AND CAPTAIN VICARS.

THEY were both officers in the 7th Regiment of Foot, which was in Edinburgh in 1786. A statuary once requested, as a great favour, to be allowed to take a model of Captain Vicars, who was allowed to be the handsomest man among 10,000, while the regiment lay at Gibraltar. The lady admiring his figure, is dressed in the costume of that day.

<sup>1</sup> "PRIVATE THEATRICALS.—The performance of the tragedy of the *Grecian Daughter*, which took place at Marionville on Friday last (15th January 1790), was in every respect delightful. Mr. Macrae, in the first part of Dionysius, gave infinite satisfaction. His figure, which is remarkably handsome, and his countenance, at once manly and expressive, every way suited him for that character. He was particularly great in the third act, when describing to Philotas the cares that accompany a regal state. Sir John Wrottesley played the part of Philotas with great judgment. His voice was remarkably pleasing. Mr. Kinloch was exceedingly great as Evander. His first scene with Euphrasia was very affecting. Mr. Justice supported the part of Melancthon with much propriety. But it is impossible to do justice to Mrs. Macrae in the character of Euphrasia; suffice it to say, that the part was never better performed on any stage, either by a Siddons or a Crawfurd.

"It is difficult to say whether her tragic or her comic powers are most excellent, as in both she gives equal satisfaction. Her performance of Lady Racket, in *Three Weeks after Marriage*, was superior to any thing we have ever seen of the kind. Mr. Hunter, in Sir Charles Racket, was inimitable. His manner was easy, and perfectly that of a gentleman, and his mode of acting truly natural. Mr. Justice, in Drugget, showed much zeal and comic humour, and gave proofs that he thoroughly understood the character."—*Edinburgh Evening Courant, Thursday, 26th January 1790.*



H. F. 1786

14







Three CAPTAINS OF PILATE'S Guard

## No. XV.

## THE THREE CAPTAINS OF THE CITY GUARD.

GEORGE PITCAIRN.

GEORGE ROBERTSON.

ROBERT PILLANS.

THESE three persons were all, as announced in the title, Captains of the Old Edinburgh City Guard. This appointment was not generally held by military men, and it was frequently conferred upon decayed burgesses, whose character recommended them to the patronage of the Magistrates, and whose circumstances rendered this tolerably lucrative situation (which was *ad vitam aut culpam*) an object of some moment.

CAPTAIN PITCAIRN had originally been a cloth-merchant in the city, and had more than once served in the Magistracy. Having subsequently become embarrassed in his circumstances, he was appointed, on a vacancy occurring, to the Captaincy of the City Guard; but, engaging some time afterwards in no very creditable speculation,<sup>1</sup> he lost both his situation and his character. He was the author of a "Treatise on the Fisheries," Edin., 12mo, for which the Trustees of the Society for the extending the Fisheries awarded him a gold medal. He died at Edinburgh on the 17th September 1791.

ROBERTSON, the second figure in the Print, had been an officer in the Dutch service previous to his appointment to a command in the City Guard, and was selected for the latter office with the view of improving the discipline and general military character of the corps. Of his private history nothing is known, nor was his professional career as a civic soldier, which was very brief, distinguished by any remarkable event. He died in Edinburgh in the year 1787, and was succeeded by another military veteran, Captain Gordon.

PILLANS, the third figure, was originally a brewer in the vicinity of the city, and was for some time one of the resident bailies of the then suburban districts of Potterrow and Portsburgh. It is alleged that the gallant Captain was fully as dexterous at handling a bottle as a sword; and a certain rotundity observable in

<sup>1</sup> This was importing bad half-pence from England,—a species of traffic which was, about the latter end of the last century, carried to a great extent in this country. Whole barrels, and these in immense numbers, were brought down to Scotland, chiefly from Birmingham, and obtained for a considerable time a ready circulation; no one ever thinking of questioning either the weight or quality of the copper coin tendered to them. The value, as subsequently ascertained by the Magistrates, was

the accompanying likeness of him would, indeed, seem to favour the insinuation He died in 1788, when he was succeeded by Captain Christie, formerly a sergeant in the South Fencible Regiment.

This Print is entitled “Three Captains of Pilate’s Guard,” in allusion to a popular fiction, that the city of Edinburgh had a town-guard before the birth of our Saviour; and that three of that body had joined the Roman troops after the invasion of Britain by Julius Cæsar, and were actually present with Pilate’s troops at the Crucifixion.

#### No. XVI.

#### PROVOST DAVID STEUART

AND

#### BAILIE JOHN LOTHIAN.

CONTRAST, it is presumed, was the reason of these two respectable citizens being classed together in this etching,—the Provost being a very handsome man, and the Bailie the reverse. The latter, from his great stoop and rotundity of shoulder, acquired from his brother bailies the sobriquet of “The Loupin-on-Stane.”

PROVOST STEUART, a younger son of the family of Dalguise, carried on business as a banker in Edinburgh, in partnership with Robert Allan, Esq., under the firm of Allan and Steuart. He was, in 1778, elected one of the Merchant Councillors, and, in 1779, third Bailie. In 1780 local politics ran high: the re-election of Sir Laurence Dundas, Bart.,<sup>1</sup> the former member for the city of Edinburgh, was opposed by William Miller, Esquire, younger of Barskimming,<sup>2</sup> and the latter was returned to Parliament; but upon a petition, by his opponent, to the House of Commons, his election was (16th March 1781) set aside, and Sir Laurence declared sitting member. In this contest the Whig interest was zealously supported by Mr. Steuart, who, upon the resignation of

that seven of these half-pence were only equal to *one* sterling penny of George III. At length the Magistrates of Edinburgh took cognisance of the affair, and ordered the alarm to be sounded by tuck of drum (29th April 1767). The consequence of this proceeding was, that the shopkeepers immediately began to weigh all half-pence that were offered them, refusing those that were not standard weight. This caution descended even to the old women who kept *stands* upon the street, every one of whom provided themselves with scales and weights for the same purpose.

<sup>1</sup> Sir Laurence Dundas, though of an ancient family, was the architect of his own fortune, and amassed vast wealth as Commissary-general of the army in Flanders. He was the second son of Thomas Dundas, one of the bailies of Edinburgh, who fell into difficulties which occasioned his bankruptcy. Sir Laurence had himself been for some time behind the counter—a circumstance which, coming to the Royal ear, prevented him, it was rumoured, from obtaining a coronet, the great object of his ambition. His son Thomas was more successful, as, upon the 13th of August 1794, he was raised to the peerage by the title of Lord Dundas of Aske, in Yorkshire.

<sup>2</sup> Afterwards Sir William Miller, Bart., and one of the senators of the College of Justice.





Walter Hamilton, Esq., was elected Lord Provost. This office he filled, as usual, for two years.

The copartnery with Mr. Allan<sup>1</sup> having been dissolved, Provost Steuart commenced business on his own account in Leith, as a general merchant. At a later date he became a wine-merchant in Edinburgh, but was far from successful in his commercial speculations. In his early years, with the view of following a mercantile profession, he resided for some time on the Continent, where he acquired an intimate knowledge of modern languages. He was a man of excellent taste, and passionately fond of literature.

He was a great book-collector, and his library, for its size, was one of the finest in Scotland. His residence abroad had given him great facilities for collecting rare and curious works. In May 1801, when he exposed a part of his library to sale by auction, it was described as “a small, but select collection of books, in which is to be found some of the finest specimens of typography extant, from the first attempt on wooden blocks until the present time.” But the prices offered not coming up to Mr. Steuart’s expectations, the greater part were bought in, either by himself or his friends. Two of the finest specimens of early printing which now enrich the Library of the Faculty of Advocates were formerly in his possession, viz.—1st, The first edition of the Latin Bible, and one of the earliest books executed with movable types, in two large volumes folio, supposed to have been printed by Guttemberg and Faust in the year 1450. The other is the Breviary of the Roman Church, beautifully printed on the finest vellum at Venice by Nicholas Jenson in 1478, and finely illuminated.

Provost Steuart married Miss Ann Fordyce, an Aberdeenshire lady, by whom he had sixteen children, five of whom, two sons and three daughters, are presently alive. In the latter part of life he suffered much as a martyr to the gout; and finally left Edinburgh about the year 1815. From that time he continued to reside with his son-in-law, Mr. Mair,<sup>2</sup> at Gretna Hall, near Annan, where he died on the 17th May 1824.

MR. JOHN LOTHIAN was a cloth-merchant in that shop, No. 313 High Street, in the west wing of the front of the Royal Exchange. He was elected one of the Merchants’ Councillors, in 1762; and in 1768, upon the death of Bailie William Callender, was appointed third bailie in his stead; in 1769, he was one of the old bailies; in 1774, second bailie; in 1775, old bailie. He died unmarried, at Edinburgh, suddenly, on the 12th August 1790. He was second son of Richard Lothian, writer in Edinburgh, the eldest son of George Lothian, Esq., of Belsis, near Ormiston, in East Lothian, and cousin-

<sup>1</sup> Robert Allan was father of the late Thomas Allan, Esq., who bought the estate of Lauriston, in the county of Edinburgh, which had for nearly a century and a half been the property of the representatives of the celebrated John Law of Lauriston, who was born there.

<sup>2</sup> Mrs. Mair was remarkable for the beauty of her face and the graceful elegance of her figure, but the sweetness of her manner was still more remarkable than either.

german of Dr. William Lothian, senior minister of Canongate, author of the “History of the United Provinces of the Netherlands.” Dr. Lothian died in January 1783, and was buried in the Canongate churchyard, where a monument to his memory is erected, upon which is an elegant Latin inscription, by his friend Logan the poet, in the composition of which he was assisted by the late Professor Dalzell. It is printed in Dr. Duncan’s collection of epitaphs.

Bailie Lothian, though a very excellent person, was not remarkable for his literary acquirements. The late Mr. Smellie, printer, invited him to attend the funeral of Mr. Greenlaw, teacher and preacher of the gospel, Edinburgh; the funeral letters were, at the dying request of that gentleman, written in Latin; the receipt of this circular puzzled the worthy magistrate exceedingly—for hours he turned it over and over again, without being able to make anything of it. On a sudden a new light came upon him. He remembered that Mr. Smellie had published some animadversions upon the conduct of the magistrates, and he sagely concluded this to be a fresh libel, not only upon the whole civic authorities, but upon himself in particular. Impressed with this idea, he determined to lay the matter before his brethren; and, accordingly, at the first meeting of Council, he threw the mysterious paper, with great indignation, on the table, observing, that this was another “skit” by that fellow Smellie on the magistracy! His astonishment may be well conceived, when those present, so far from sympathising with him, received his extraordinary communication with reiterated bursts of laughter.

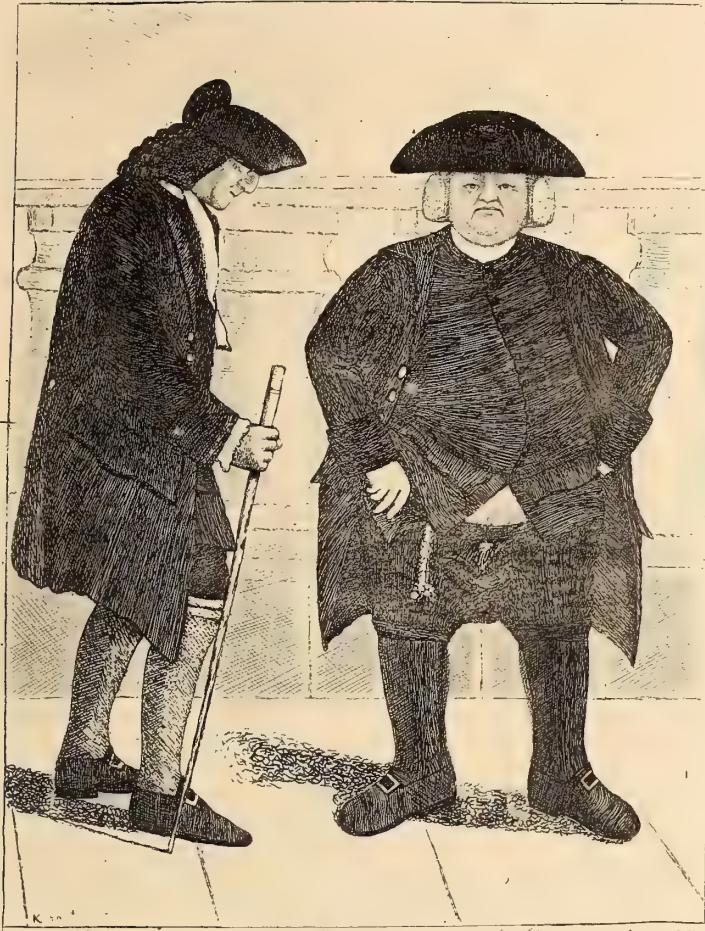
#### No. XVII.

ALEXANDER HUNTER, ESQ. OF POLMOOD,

AND

ROGER HOG, ESQ. OF NEWLISTON.

THE figure on the left represents MR. ALEXANDER HUNTER, an opulent merchant in Edinburgh. His fortunes were increased by the death of a son, who left his father considerable property. He also succeeded to the estate of Polmood in the county of Peebles, under a disposition and deed of entail executed by Thomas Hunter (who was no relation), dated 28th January 1765. This person having died on the 20th of March following, the conveyance was liable to reduction, as executed on death-bed, provided an heir could be found, which was not a very easy matter, from the circumstance that the last possessor was descended from a natural son of Robert Hunter of Polmood, who died in the year 1689. The estate had been destined to the bastard and the heirs of his body, with a special declaration, that, in the event of failure, the estate



I say we are fearfully & wonderfully made

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should return to the granter, his nearest heirs-male, and assignees whatsoever. The immediate heirs of Robert Hunter, after the alienation of the family estate, gradually sank into obscurity, so that when Thomas Hunter died it became difficult to discover any traces of them. However, two parties came forward, the one an old man called Adam Hunter, subsequently a well-known individual in the Scottish courts, and a person of the name of Taylor, who afterwards withdrew his claim. Legal proceedings were instituted, but, after nearly fifty years' keen contest, the aged competitor was defeated, the Court of Session and House of Lords deciding that he had not established his pedigree.

Hogg, in his *Winter Evening Tales*,<sup>1</sup> remarks, "You ask who is the owner of Polmood? This, it seems, is a hard question, since all the lawyers and judges in Scotland have not been able to determine it in the course of half a century. It is a positive and lamentable fact, that though it is as apparent to whom the estate of Polmood belongs, as it is to whom this hand belongs, it has been a subject of litigation, and depending in our Courts of Session these fifty years.—This is one remarkable circumstance connected with the place, which has rendered it unfamous of late years, and seems in part to justify an ancient prediction, that the Hunters of Polmood *were never to prosper*."

To the correctness of the first part of this statement it is impossible to assent; for, however strong the moral evidence may have been in favour of Adam Hunter, the legal proof of his pedigree was unquestionably defective.

Mr. Alexander Hunter died at Edinburgh, 22d January 1786, and was succeeded by his nephew Walter, whose daughter Elizabeth, Lady Forbes, is presently (1837) in possession of Polmood.

The other figure is ROGER HOG, Esq. of Newliston, formerly a merchant in London. Being very parsimonious, he amassed a large fortune. Beside his landed property, he died possessed of personal estate to a vast amount, the succession to which was contested, and gave rise to the celebrated case of Lashley against Hog. It is said that Mr. Hog, amongst other economical habits, used to dispose of his poultry, and in order to superintend the trade himself, he usually brought them to market in his carriage. His son and heir going one day to Newliston, to visit his father, met him on his way to town. The servants knowing that their master was short-sighted, drove the carriage close up, that they might converse together. The son, in popping his head in at the carriage window, was, to his infinite astonishment, immediately seized by the nose by an enraged turkey-cock which was being conveyed to the market.

Mr. Hog was remarkably corpulent, and very careless in his dress. He was a great admirer of Dr. Graham, and a constant attendant during his lectures. He was accustomed to preface anything he uttered with "I say," a peculiarity noticed by Mr. Kay in this Print. He died at Newliston, 19th March 1789.

<sup>1</sup> Vol. ii. p. 3. Edinburgh, 1820.

## No. XVIII.

FRANCIS GROSE, ESQ., F.A.S. OF LONDON  
AND PERTH.

THIS Print of the celebrated antiquary, Captain Grose,

A fine fat fodgel wight, of stature short, but genius bright,

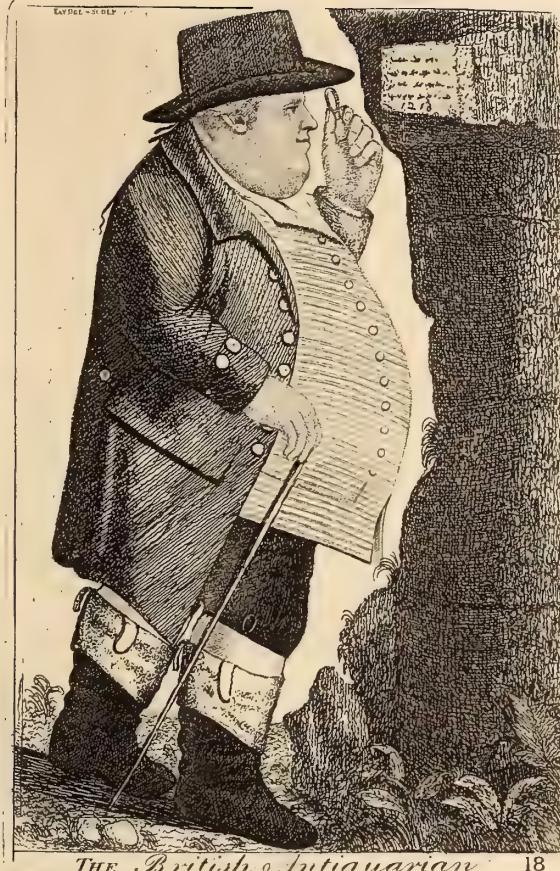
represents him in the act of copying an inscription upon an ancient ruin, and was done during his visit to Edinburgh in 1789.

He was exceedingly corpulent, and used to rally himself with the greatest good humour on the singular rotundity of his figure. The following epigram, written in a moment of festivity by the celebrated Robert Burns, the Ayrshire bard, was so much relished by Grose, that he made it serve as an excuse for prolonging the convivial occasion that gave it birth to a very late hour :—

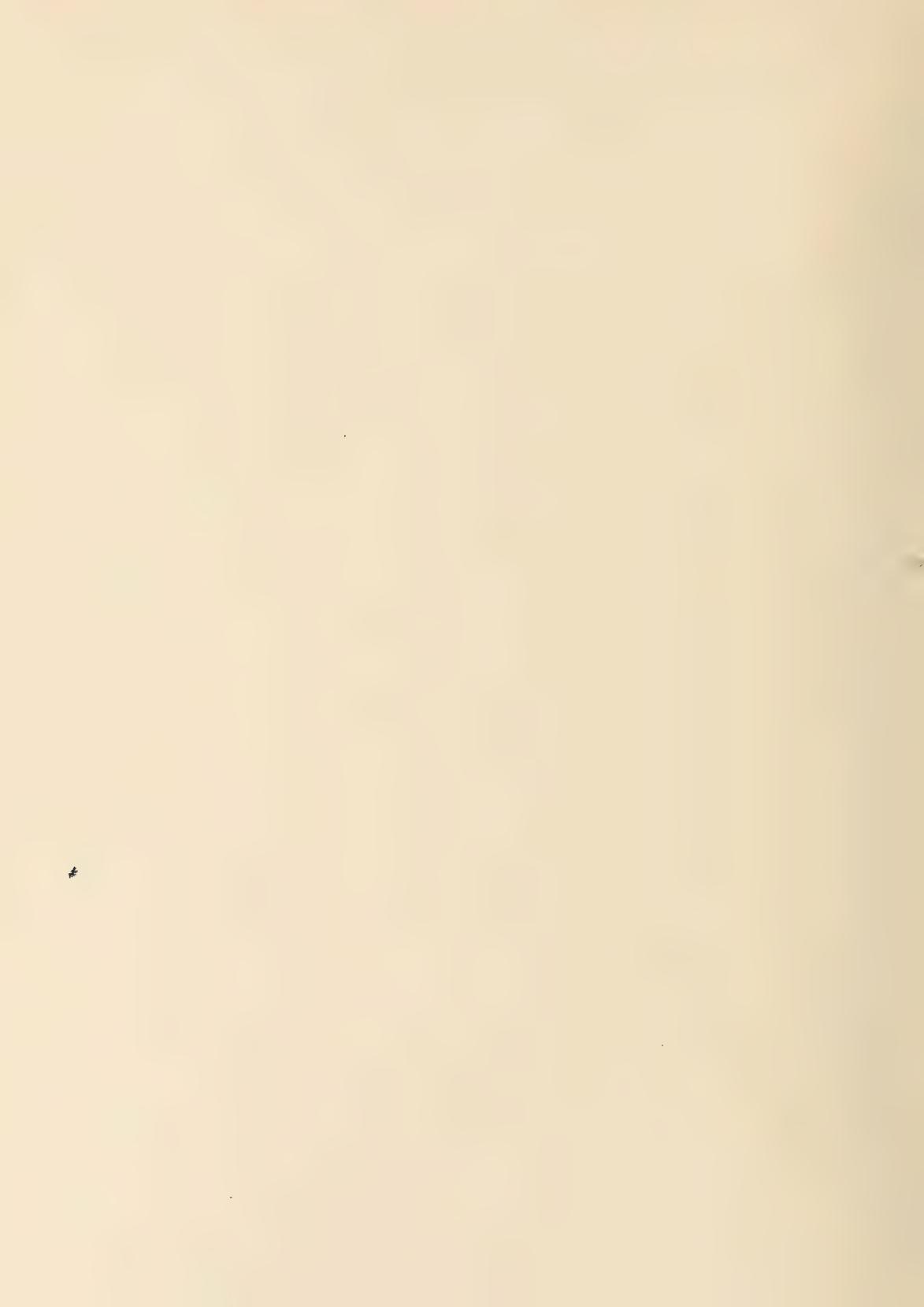
The Devil got notice that Grose was a-dying,  
So whip ! at the summons, old Satan came flying ;  
But when he approach'd where poor Francis lay moaning,  
And saw each bed-post with its burthen a-groaning,  
Astonished, confounded, cries Satan, ‘——,—,  
I'd want him, ere take such a ——— load.’’

It may be noticed that Grose acknowledges his obligations to the poet in the following terms, in his *Antiquities of Scotland* :—“To my ingenious friend, Mr. Robert Burns, I have been variously obligated : he not only was at the pains of making out what was most worthy of notice in Ayrshire, the county honoured by his birth, but he also wrote, expressly for this work, the pretty tale annexed to Alloway Church.” This “pretty tale” is Burns's inimitable “Tam o' Shanter.”

Captain Grose was born in the year 1731, and was the son of Mr. Francis Grose of Richmond, jeweller, who fitted up the coronation crown of George the Second, and died in 1769. By his father he was left an independent fortune. In early life he entered the Surrey militia, of which he became Adjutant and Paymaster ; but so careless was he that he kept no vouchers either of his receipts or expenditure. He used himself to say he had only two books of accounts, viz. the right and left hand pockets. The results may easily be anticipated, and his fortune suffered severely for his folly. His losses on this occasion roused his latent talents ;—with a good classical education, a fine taste for drawing, encouraged by his friends, and impelled by his situation, he commenced the *Antiquities of England and Wales*, the first number of which was published in 1773, and the fourth volume completed in 1776. In 1777 he resumed his pencil, and added two more volumes to his English Views, in which he included the islands of Guernsey and Jersey, in 237 views, with



THE British Antiquarian 18



maps of the counties, besides a general one. The work was reprinted in eight volumes, in 1787.

The success of this work induced Grose to illustrate in a similar manner "The Antiquities of Scotland." This publication, in numbers of four plates each, commenced in the beginning of 1789, and was finished in 1791, forming two volumes, with 190 views, and letterpress. Before the plates of the latter numbers were out of the engraver's hands, the author "turned his eyes to Ireland, who seemed to invite him to her hospitable shore, to save from impending oblivion her mouldering monuments, and to unite her, as she should ever be, in closest association with the British Isles. The Captain arrived in Dublin in May 1791,<sup>1</sup> with the fairest prospect of completing the noblest literary design attempted in this century." Such are the words of Dr. Ledwich, to whom Grose had applied for assistance, and by whom the work was completed, in two volumes, in 1795. But, while in Dublin, at the house of Mr. Hone, Grose was suddenly seized with an apoplectic fit, and died, in the fifty-second year of his age, upon the 12th of May 1791. The following epitaph proposed for him, was inserted in the *St. James's Chronicle*, May 26:—

Here lies Francis Grose :  
On Thursday, May 12th, 1791,  
Death put an end to  
*His views and prospects.*

Upon occasion of his marriage, Grose took up his residence in Canterbury, where he remained several years, during which period his wit and vivacity made him many friends. No one possessed more than himself the faculty of setting the table "in a roar," but it was never at the expense of virtue or good manners. He left several sons and daughters; one of the latter married Anketil Singleton, Esq., Lieut.-Governor of Sandguard Fort. His son, Daniel Grose, F.A.S., Captain of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, was, after several campaigns in America, appointed Depute-Governor of the new settlement at Botany Bay, 1790.

Besides the works above noticed, he published—

"A Treatise on Ancient Armour and Weapons; illustrated by plates taken from the original armour in the Tower of London, and other arsenals, museums, and cabinets." Lond. 1785. 4to. A Supplement was added in 1789.

"A Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue." Lond. 1785. 8vo.

"A Guide to Health, Wealth, Honour, and Riches." Lond. 1785. 8vo. This is a most amusing collection of advertisements, principally illustrative of the extreme gullibility of the citizens of London. A very humorous introduction is prefixed.

"Military Antiquities, respecting a History of the English Army, from the Conquest to the Present Time." 2 vols. Lond. 1786-88. 4to. With numerous plates. This work was published in numbers.

<sup>1</sup> He was accompanied, for the last three years of his travels, by a young man whom he called his Guinea-pig, and who had caught his manner of etching.

"The History of Dover Castle. By the Rev. William Darrell, Chaplain to Queen Elizabeth." 1781. In 4to, the same size as the large and small editions of the Antiquities of England and Wales; with ten views engraved from drawings by Captain Grose.

"A Provincial Glossary; with a Collection of Local Proverbs and Popular Superstitions." Lond. 1788. 8vo.

"Rules for Drawing Caricatures; the subject illustrated with four copperplates; with an Essay on Comic Painting." Lond. 1788. 8vo. A second edition appeared in 1791, 8vo, illustrated with twenty-one copperplates, seventeen of which were etched by Captain Grose.

After his demise was published "The Olio; being a collection of Essays, Dialogues, Letters, Biographical Sketches, etc. By the late Francis Grose, Esq., F.R.S. and A.S.;" with a portrait of the author. Lond. 1796. 8vo.

There are dissertations by him in the *Archæologia*, the one "On an Ancient Fortification at Christchurch, Hants," and the other "On Ancient Spurs."

Although the verses written by Burns during Captain Grose's peregrinations through Scotland collecting its antiquities are sufficiently well known, we cannot refrain from concluding this article with them :

Hear, Land o' Cakes, and britther Scots,  
Frae Maidenkirk to Johnny Groats,  
If there's a hole in a' your coats,  
I rede you tent it;  
A chiel's amang you takin notes,  
And, faith, he'll prent it.

If in your bounds ye chance to light  
Upon a fine, fat, fodgel wight,  
O' stature short, but genius bright,  
That's he, mark weel—  
An wow! he has an unco slight  
O' cauk and keel.

By some auld, houlet-haunted biggin,  
Or kirk deserted by its riggin,  
It's ten to aye ye'll find him snug in  
Some eldritch part,  
Wi' deils, they say, — safe's! colleaguin  
At some black art.

Ilk ghaist that haunts auld ha' or chamer,  
Ye gipsy-gang that deal in glamor,  
And you deep-read in hell's black grammar,  
Warlocks and witches,  
Ye'll quake at his conjurin hammer,  
Ye midnight —.

It's tauld he was a sodger bred,  
And aye wad rather fa'n than fled;  
But now he's quat the spurtle-blade,  
An dogskeen wallet,  
An taen the — *Antiquarian trade*,  
I think they call it.

He has a fouth o' auld nick-nackets,  
Rusty airn caps, an jingling jackets,  
Wad haud the Loudians three in tuckets  
A towmond gude,  
And parritch pats, an auld saut-backets,  
Before the flood.

O' Eve's first fire he has ae cinder;  
Auld Tubal-Cain's fire-shool and fender;  
That which distinguished the gender  
O' Balaam's ass;  
A broom-stick o' the witch o' Endor,  
Weel shod wi' brass.

Forbye, he'll shape you aff fu' gleg,  
The cut o' Adam's philibeg,  
The knife that nicket Abel's craig  
He'll prove you fully,  
It was a fauldin jocteleg,  
Or lang kail-gully.

But wad ye see him in his glee,  
For meikle glee and fun has he,  
Then set him down, and twa or three  
Gude fellows wi' him;  
And *port*, *O port!* shine thou a wee,  
And then ye'll see him !

Now, by the powers o' verse and prose!  
Thou art a dainty chiel, O Grose!  
Whae'er o' thee shall ill suppose,  
They sair misca' thee,  
I'd tak the rascal by the nose  
Wad say, Shame fa' thee.





## No. XIX.

CAPTAIN MINGAY, WITH A PORTER CARRYING  
GEORGE CRANSTOUN IN HIS CREEL.

CAPTAIN MINGAY, the principal figure in this Print, was a native of Ireland. When in Edinburgh with his regiment, now about forty-five years since, he paid his addresses, and was subsequently married to the amiable Miss Webster,<sup>1</sup> daughter of the Rev. Dr. Webster, by whom he had several children, some of whom are still alive, and which connexion proved peculiarly advantageous to the Captain.

GEORGE CRANSTOUN, the little lachrymose-looking creature in the porter's creel, was a well-known character in the city, and must be remembered by many of its inhabitants, as it is not much more than thirty years since his death.

He was of remarkably small stature, deformed in the legs, and possessed of a singularly long, grave, and lugubrious countenance.

George, who was endowed with a powerful voice (notwithstanding his diminutive size) and a good ear, was originally a teacher of music, but latterly subsisted chiefly on charity, and was to be found constantly hanging about the door of the Parliament House.

He was a shrewd and intelligent little personage, an excellent singer of comic songs, and possessed of some humour, qualifications which procured him considerable patronage from "the choice spirits" of the day, and were the cause of his being frequently invited to their festive meetings. It was not unusual, on such occasions, to place Geordie on the sideboard. He was accustomed to receive a trifling pecuniary gratuity for the amusement he afforded, and in addition he was supplied with a liberal share of the good things that were going, particularly liquor, to which he was devotedly attached. When the little man got too drunk at such meetings—no uncommon occurrence—to be able to walk home, a porter was generally sent for, who, putting him into his creel, as represented in the Print, conveyed him safely and comfortably to his residence, which was in a house with an outer side-stair, and a wooden railing on it, in a small court off the Shoemaker's Close, Canongate. It was on one of these occasions that the porter, when resting the bottom of his creel on the wooden railing until the door was opened to him, allowed George to tumble out of the creel, the effects of which caused his death.

It is said, that on one occasion, when no porter or creel was to be had, his waggish entertainers made him up into a package, and regularly "addressed" him to his mother, "carriage paid." The honest woman, believing it to be a

<sup>1</sup> A lady who inherited all the fine feelings and sensibilities of her mother.

present sent by some friend, was not a little amazed, and perhaps disappointed, on opening the parcel, to find that it contained only her “ain Geordie.”

At mason meetings, which he regularly attended, and where he was always entertained gratis, he generally, when about to give a specimen of his accomplishments, mounted on one of the tables.

George was a frequent candidate for precentorships in the various churches of the city, but was uniformly rejected on account of the extreme oddity of his appearance, which not improbably would have excited feelings amongst the congregation not consistent with the solemnity of divine worship.

No. XX.

SAMUEL M'DONALD AND GEORGE CRANSTOUN.

SAMUEL M'DONALD, or Big Sam, as he was generally called, was a native of the parish of Lairg, in the county of Sutherland. During part of the American War he was a private in the Sutherland Fencibles. He became afterwards fugleman to the Royals, and continued in this situation till the year 1791, when his late Majesty George the Fourth, then Prince of Wales, made him a lodge porter at Carlton House. This situation he relinquished in 1793, and was appointed a sergeant in the regiment in which he originally commenced his military career.

His mild manner and singularly clear and sonorous voice peculiarly fitted him for drilling recruits; and in this duty he was very frequently employed. Being of too large stature to stand in the ranks, he generally took his place on the right of the regiment when in line, and marched at the head when in column. The striking appearance of M'Donald on these occasions was not a little heightened by his being always accompanied by a mountain deer, of a size as remarkable as his own. This animal was so attached to him that, when permitted, it would follow him through the streets.

When the Sutherland Fencibles were formed into the 93d Regiment, M'Donald still retained his military predilection, and continued with his old companions till the day of his death, which took place at Guernsey on the 6th of May 1802. He was then forty years of age. His death was occasioned by a collection of water in the thorax—an insidious disease to which the robust are more particularly liable.

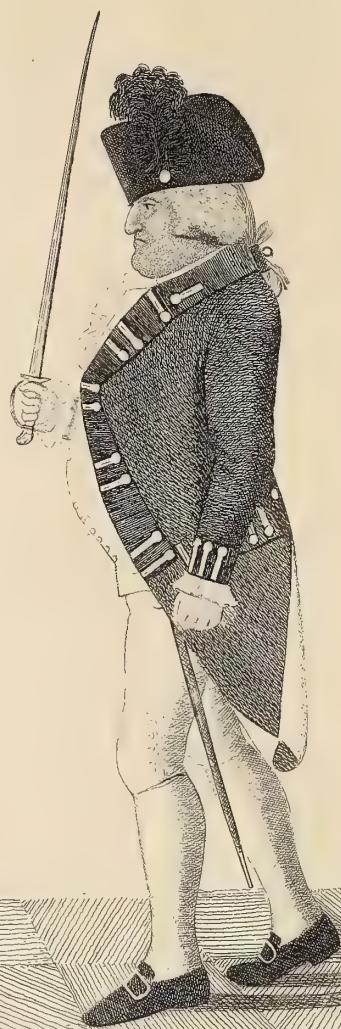
M'Donald, from his great good nature and excellent moral character, was a universal favourite, and much respected in the different corps in which he served. The Countess of Sutherland, “judging probably,” says Colonel Stewart of Garth, “that so large a body must require more sustenance than his military pay could afford,” generously allowed him half-a-crown per day over and above his pay.



SAM. A Soldier I am for a Lady, what Beau was ere arm'd compleaterr &







GENTLEMEN DRAW YOUR SWORDS

21

It is said that when Sam was in London, on one occasion he was advised to show himself for money, and that although he declined exhibiting himself in his own character, he so far acted on the hint as to dress in female attire, and advertise as "The remarkably tall woman." By this ingenious expedient, Sam became so well furnished with cash that his expenditure attracted the notice of his Colonel, who being curious to ascertain in what way he had obtained his supplies, interrogated Sam, who candidly disclosed the fact, and in this way the secret transpired.

Sam was once persuaded to appear on the stage, whilst in the service of his late Majesty, at the request of his Royal Master. This took place at the Opera-House in the Haymarket, then occupied by the Drury Lane Company, upon occasion of the representation of a dramatic entertainment, called "Cymon and Iphigenia," and in which he acted the appropriate part of *Hercules*.<sup>1</sup>

Numberless anecdotes are told of M'Donald, illustrative of his great strength. On one occasion, having been challenged by two soldiers of his own regiment on the understanding that he was to fight both at once, Samuel agreed, but said, as he had no quarrel with them, he should wish to shake hands with them before they began. One of the combatants instantly held out his hand. Samuel took hold of it, but instead of giving it the friendly shake expected, he used it as a lever to raise its owner from the ground, when he swung him round as he would a cat by the tail, and threw him to a great distance. The other combatant, not admiring this preliminary process, took to his heels. Many feats of strength similar to this are, as already mentioned, recorded of him.

While in Edinburgh, Sam occasionally patronised Geordie Cranstoun (see No. 19) to whose singing he took much pleasure in listening. He was nevertheless much displeased to find himself associated with him in this Print, which was shown him by Mr. Kay. He remarked to the engraver that he did not choose to be classed with a beggar, and insisted that the little man's portrait should be expunged. Although this demand was not complied with, the next time that Sam called on the artist he was in his usual good humour.

Sam was six feet ten inches high, four feet round the chest, extremely strong-built and muscular, but yet proportionable, unless his legs might be thought even too large for the load they had to bear.

#### No. XXI.

#### MAJOR FISHER.

THIS gentleman, represented as giving the word of command, was an officer in the 55th Regiment of Foot, which was in Edinburgh in 1790. Both officers and men conducted themselves with great propriety while there.

<sup>1</sup> Gentleman's Magazine, vol. lxxii. p. 478.

## No. XXII.

## DR. JOSEPH BLACK.

DR. BLACK was born in France, on the banks of the Garonne, in 1728. His father, Mr. John Black, was a native of Belfast, in Ireland, but his ancestors were originally from Scotland. Mr. Black had settled in Bordeaux as a wine-merchant, where he married a daughter of Mr. Robert Gordon of Hillhead, in Aberdeenshire, who also resided at Bordeaux, and was engaged in the same trade. At the age of twelve, young Black was sent to his relations in Belfast for his education, and he accordingly attended the schools of that town. In 1746 he entered the University of Glasgow, where he was very early patronised by Mr. Robert Dick, Professor of Natural Philosophy, and speedily became the intimate companion of his son, who, as well as his youthful friend, had already given a decided preference to physical knowledge. During the course of the same year in which he went to college, Dr. Cullen commenced his illustrious career as lecturer on chemistry in the University of Glasgow, and his fame quickly spread through the city of Glasgow. His class, besides being filled with regular students, was attended by many gentlemen who had no idea of prosecuting professionally the study of medicine. Dr. Cullen, who in every situation which he held either in Glasgow or in Edinburgh, made it a point to cultivate an acquaintance with those who attended his lectures—uniformly treating them with respect, but from the natural openness and generosity of his temper, never keeping them at a distance—was accessible at all times, and took cognisance of the progress of their studies. He became early acquainted with young Black, and, perceiving the bent of his genius, strongly impressed upon him the propriety of prosecuting with ardour the cultivation of that field of science upon which he had just entered. In a short time he was advanced to be Dr. Cullen's assistant in the performance of experiments; and by the extraordinary neatness and address which he displayed in this department, he essentially contributed to increase the eclat of the Professor's lectures.

He repaired to Edinburgh to finish his medical studies, and in 1751 was enrolled as a student of medicine. Whilst there, he resided with his cousin-german, Mr. Russell, Professor of Natural Philosophy in that University. The usefulness of this seminary as a medical school was then only beginning to be known, but the reputation of its teachers had already spread through various parts of the world. During three sessions he attended all the necessary classes, and took the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1754. On this occasion it is customary in Edinburgh to print a thesis, in the Latin language, on some subject connected with medical science. Dr. Black chose for his theme "The Acid arising from Food, and Magnesia Alba," in which was contained





his celebrated discovery of *fixed air, or carbonic acid gas*. We are informed by himself, that he was led to the examination of the absorbent earths, partly by the hope of discovering a new sort of lime and lime-water, which might possibly be a more powerful solvent of the stone than that commonly used. The attention of the public had been directed to this subject for some years. Sir Robert, as well as his brother, Horace, afterwards Lord Walpole, were troubled with the stone. They imagined that they had received benefit from a medicine invented by a Mrs. Stephens; and, through their interest principally, she received five thousand pounds sterling for revealing the secret. It was accordingly published in the *London Gazette* on the 19th June 1739. This had directed the attention of medical men to the employment of lime-water in cure of the stone. Upon the publication of the thesis, it immediately attracted the attention of chemical philosophers; and Dr. Black is now universally acknowledged to be the founder of pneumatic chemistry, and to have opened an immense field for observation and experiment to the philosophical world, which before his time had never been explored or even thought of.

Dr. Cullen removing to Edinburgh in 1756, Dr. Black was appointed Professor of Anatomy and Lecturer on Chemistry; but not conceiving himself so well qualified for filling the anatomical chair, he obtained the concurrence of the University to accomplish an exchange with the Professor of Medicine. He brought to maturity his theory of *latent heat*, some time between 1759 and 1763; and he read, in April 1762, to a select society in Glasgow, the result of his experiments on the subject. Much about the same year he read the essay on latent heat before a society in Edinburgh, bearing the name of the Newtonian Society, instituted in 1759. The delicate state of his health was the cause of his never publishing an account of his doctrine, as the slightest exertion, if continued for any length of time, always brought on a spitting of blood; and the excitement which a publication of this description would necessarily have produced, and the controversy and criticism that would have followed, was much more than his feeble frame could have borne.

In 1764, it was fortunate both for Dr. Black and science, that Mr. James Watt, so justly celebrated for his improvements of the steam-engine, became his pupil, he being at that time employed in repairing the model of a steam-engine for the Natural Philosophy class in the University.

In the year 1766, Dr. Cullen, the Professor of Chemistry in the University of Edinburgh, was appointed Professor of Medicine; and the chemical chair in the University thus becoming vacant, Dr. Black was immediately appointed to it, and he continued one of the chief ornaments of the University for a space of about thirty years.

Dr. Black lived on very friendly terms with most of the many literary characters then resident in the northern metropolis. Amongst these we may mention his relative, Dr. Adam Ferguson, Mr. Home, author of the tragedy of *Douglas*, Dr. Alexander Carlyle, Sir George Clerk of Penycuick, his brother Mr. Clerk of Eldin, Dr. Roebuck, and Dr. Hutton.

He felt the approaches of old age somewhat early, and was under the necessity of employing an assistant when only about sixty years of age. He restricted himself to a moderate, or rather abstemious diet, and regulated his food and exercise by the measure of his strength. He entertained many apprehensions of a long-continued sick-bed, which he was anxious to avoid, not from any selfish motive, but that it might not occasion trouble or distress to his friends. This anticipated evil was averted by the suddenness of his departure, which took place on the 26th November 1799, while sitting at table with his usual fare before him, viz. some bread, a few prunes, and a measured quantity of milk, diluted with water, with the cup in his hands containing the liquid, resting on his knees. In this posture he was found by the servant who attended him. He was in the seventy-first year of his age.

Dr. Black, who had never been married, left more money than any one thought he could have acquired in the course of his career. It was disposed of by his will in a manner highly characteristic: Being divided into ten thousand shares, it was parcelled out to a numerous list of individuals, in shares, or fractions of shares, according to the degree in which he thought they were proper objects of his care or solicitude. He was succeeded, as Professor of Chemistry, by Dr. Hope.

"The aspect of Dr. Black," says Chalmers,<sup>1</sup> "was comely and interesting. His countenance exhibited that pleasing expression of inward satisfaction, which, by giving ease to the beholder, never fails to please. His manner was unaffected and graceful; he was affable, and readily entered into conversation, whether serious or trivial; he was a stranger to none of the elegant accomplishments of life; he had a fine musical ear, with a voice which could obey it in the most perfect manner; for he sung, and performed on the flute, with great taste and feeling, and would sing a plain air at sight, which many instrumental performers cannot do. Without having studied drawing, he had acquired a considerable power of expression with his pencil, and seemed in this respect to have the talents of a historical painter. Figure, indeed, of every kind attracted his attention—even a retort, or a crucible, was to his eye an example of beauty or deformity. He had the strongest claim to the appellation of a man of propriety or correctness."

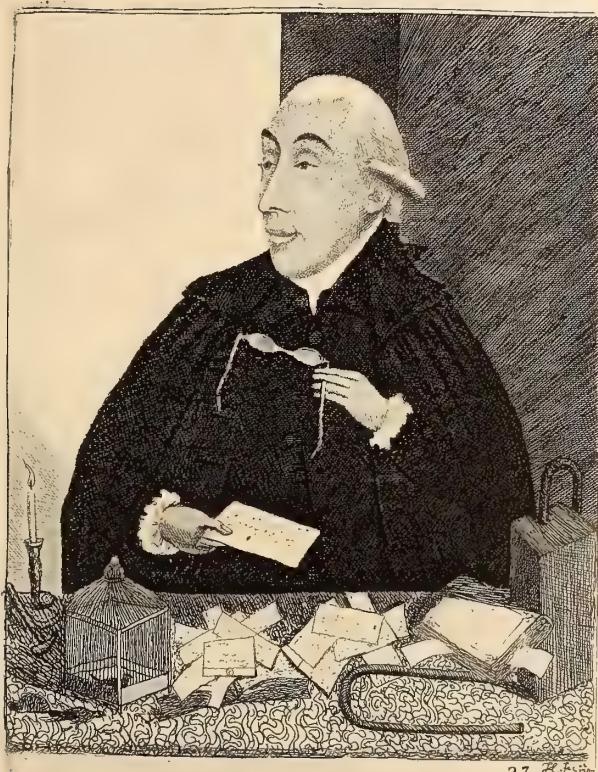
The house where Dr. Black resided was afterwards occupied by the Female Department of the Industrious Blind, in Nicolson Street.

### No. XXIII.

#### DR. JOSEPH BLACK, LECTURING.

THE notice illustrative of the preceding portrait of Dr. Black renders any description of this Print unnecessary, except to add that his "Lectures on the Elements of Chemistry, delivered in the University of Edinburgh," were published in 2 vols. 4to, by Professor Robison, in 1803.

<sup>1</sup> Biographical Dictionary, vol. v. p. 311. London, 1812, 8vo.

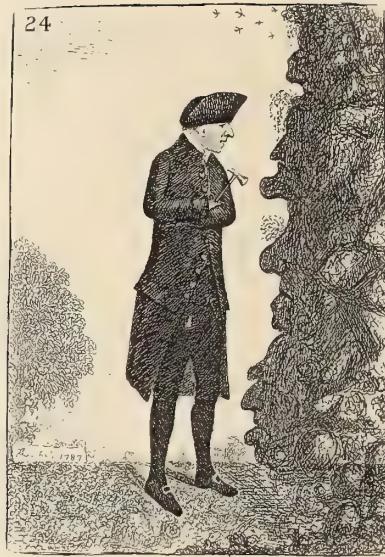


23 *R. L. Stevenson*





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## No. XXIV.

## DR. JAMES HUTTON.

DR. HUTTON was an ingenious philosopher, remarkable for the unaffected simplicity of his manner, and much esteemed by the society in which he moved. In his dress he very much resembled a Quaker, with the exception that he wore a cocked hat. He was born in the city of Edinburgh, on the 3d June 1726, and was the son of a merchant there, who died in the infancy of his son. He was educated at the High School; and, after going through the regular course at that seminary, he entered the University of Edinburgh in 1740. The original intention of his friends was, that he should follow the profession of a Writer to the Signet; and, with this view, he for some time pursued the course of study enjoined by the regulations of that Society, and accordingly attended the Humanity (or Latin) Class for two sessions. It would appear, however, that the early bent of his genius was directed towards chemistry; for, instead of prosecuting the study of the law, he was more frequently found amusing the clerks and apprentices in the office in which he had been placed, with chemical experiments. His master, therefore, with much kindness, advised him to select some other avocation more suited to his turn of mind; he, accordingly, fixed on medicine, and returned to the University. Here, during three sessions, he attended the requisite classes, but did not graduate. He repaired to Paris, and spent two years in that city. On his way home he passed through Leyden, and there took the degree of Doctor of Medicine, in the month of September 1749.

Meanwhile he had formed, in London, an intimate acquaintance with Mr. John Davie. They entered into a copartnership, and engaged in the manufacture of sal-ammoniac from coal-soot, which was carried on in Edinburgh for many years with considerable success. From his peculiar habits he had little chance of getting into practice as a doctor of medicine, and he appears to have relinquished the idea very early. He determined to betake himself to agriculture: for this purpose he resided for some time with a farmer in the county of Norfolk; and, in the year 1754, bringing a plough and a ploughman from England, he took into his own hands a small property which he possessed in Berwickshire. Having brought his farm into good order, and not feeling the same enthusiasm for agriculture which he had previously entertained, he removed to Edinburgh about the year 1768, and devoted himself almost exclusively to scientific pursuits.

In 1777, Dr. Hutton's first book, entitled, "Considerations on the Nature, Quality, and Distinctions of Coal and Culm," was given to the world. He next published an outline of his "Theory of the Earth," in the first volume of the "Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh." Dr. Hutton had, during a

long course of years, accumulated a variety of facts in support of his theory,—having undertaken journeys not only through Scotland, but also through England and Wales, and different parts of the continent of Europe. In the same volume he published another paper, entitled, "A Theory of Rain." This theory met with a vigorous opposition from M. de Luc, and became a subject of controversy, which was conducted with much warmth.

In 1792 he published "Dissertations on different subjects in Natural Philosophy," in which his theory for explaining the phenomena of the material world seems to coincide very closely with that of Boscovich, though there is no reason to suppose that the former was suggested by the latter.

Dr. Hutton next turned his attention to the study of metaphysics, the result of which he gave to the public in a voluminous work, entitled "An Investigation of the Principles of Knowledge, and of the Progress of Reason from Sense to Science and Philosophy." 3 vols. 4to. Edinburgh, 1794. While engaged in its publication he was seized with a dangerous illness, from which he never entirely recovered. In 1794 appeared his "Dissertation upon the Philosophy of Light, Heat, and Fire," 8vo. In 1796, his "Theory of the Earth" was republished in 2 vols., with large additions, and a new Mineralogical system. Many of his opinions were ably combated by Kirwan and others.

Professor Playfair, who had adopted the leading doctrines of the Doctor's theory, published, in 1802, a work entitled "Illustrations of the Huttonian Theory of the Earth." A short time before his death the Doctor wrote a work on Agriculture, which was intended to form 4 vols. 8vo. The MS. was recently in existence.

Dr. Hutton's health had begun to decline in 1792; and, as before mentioned, he was seized with a severe illness during the summer of 1793, which, after some intervals of convalescence, terminated at last in his death, upon the 26th March 1797, having written a good deal in the course of the same day. He died, like his friend Dr. Black, a bachelor.

#### No. XXV.

### PHILOSOPHERS.

THIS Print represents DR. BLACK and DR. HUTTON, who were for a long series of years most intimate and attached friends, conversing together. Their studies and pursuits were in many respects intimately connected, and upon different subjects of philosophical speculation they had frequently opposite opinions, but this never interrupted the harmony of their personal friendship. They were remarkable for their simplicity of character, and almost total ignorance of what was daily passing around them in the world. An amusing illustration of this will be found in the following anecdote:—



L. H. 787

PHILOSOPHERS

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Several highly respectable literary gentlemen proposed to hold a convivial meeting once a week, and deputed two of their number, Doctors Black and Hutton, to look out for a suitable house of entertainment to meet in. The two accordingly sallied out for this purpose, and seeing on the South Bridge a sign with the words, "Stewart, vintner, down stairs," they immediately went into the house and demanded a sight of their best room, which was accordingly shown to them, and which pleased them much. Without further inquiry, the meetings were fixed by them to be held in this house ; and the club assembled there during the greater part of the winter, till one evening Dr. Hutton, being rather late, was surprised, when going in, to see a whole bevy of well-dressed but somewhat brazen faced young ladies brush past him, and take refuge in an adjoining apartment. He then, for the first time, began to think that all was not right, and communicated his suspicions to the rest of the company. Next morning the notable discovery was made, that our amiable philosophers had introduced their friends to one of the most noted houses of bad fame in the city !

These attached friends agreed in their opposition to the usual vulgar prejudices, and frequently discoursed together upon the absurdity of many generally received opinions, especially in regard to diet. On one occasion they had a disquisition upon the inconsistency of abstaining from feeding on the testaceous creatures of the land, while those of the sea were considered as delicacies. Snails, for instance—why not use them as articles of food ? They were well known to be nutritious and wholesome—even sanative in some cases. The epicures in olden time esteemed as a most delicious treat the snails fed in the marble-quarries of Lucca. The Italians still hold them in esteem. The two philosophers, perfectly satisfied that their countrymen were acting most absurdly in not making snails an ordinary article of food, resolved themselves to set an example ; and accordingly, having procured a number, caused them to be stewed for dinner. No guests were invited to the banquet. The snails were in due season served up; but, alas! great is the difference between theory and practice—so far from exciting the appetite, the smoking dish acted in a diametrically opposite manner, and neither party felt much inclination to partake of its contents ; nevertheless, if they looked on the snails with disgust, they retained their awe for each other ; so that each, conceiving the symptoms of internal revolt peculiar to himself, began with infinite exertion to swallow, in very small quantities, the mess which he internally loathed. Dr. Black at length broke the ice, but in a delicate manner, as if to sound the opinion of his messmate :—"Doctor," he said in his precise and quiet manner, "Doctor, do you not think that they taste a little—a very little queer ?" "D— queer ! d— queer, indeed !—tak them awa' ! tak them awa' !" vociferated Dr. Hutton, starting up from the table, and giving full vent to his feelings of abhorrence.

No. XXVI.

DR. JOHN BROWN,

AUTHOR OF "THE BRUNONIAN SYSTEM OF MEDICINE,"

Is represented with the ensign of the Roman Eagle Lodge, which used to be carried at public processions before the Master, a situation which he long held.

The miniature scene in the background describes what had frequently happened, namely, the Doctor at a bowl of punch, with Mr. Little of Libberton, Mr. John Lamont, surgeon, and Lord Bellenden, heir to his Grace the Duke of Roxburghe, playing on the fiddle—an accomplishment in which he excelled—for the entertainment of the company. His Lordship, who was remarkable for his free, generous, and hospitable disposition, in 1787 married Miss Sarah Cumming of Jamaica, a lady paternally of Scottish, but maternally of African descent. The other two gentlemen in conversation at the back of this convivial group, are Dr. William Cullen and Dr. Alexander Hamilton, Professor of Midwifery; the gentleman in light clothes, to the left, is Dr. James Graham, already described in No. XI.

DR. JOHN BROWN was born in the parish of Buncle, in the county of Berwick, of parents more respectable for decency of character than dignity of rank. Discovering early marks of uncommon talents, his parents were induced, after having fruitlessly bound him as an apprentice to a weaver, to change his destination. He was accordingly sent to the grammar-school of Dunse, where, under Mr. Cruickshanks, an able teacher, he studied with great ardour and success. His application, indeed, was so intense, that he was seldom without a book in his hand. It is said that Brown submitted, in his youth, to be a reaper of corn, to procure for himself the means of improvement. With the price of such labour he put himself to school, where his abilities attracted the attention of his master, and procured him the place of assistant. His revolt from the loom, according to this account, must have been attended with highly honourable circumstances.

The years of Brown's grammar education appear to have been, in no common degree, well spent and happy; and he continued at school until he had nearly attained the age of twenty. In the summer of 1775, his reputation as a scholar procured him the appointment of tutor to a family of some distinction in the neighbourhood of Dunse, where, however, he did not long continue an inmate. Upon relinquishing this situation he repaired to the University of Edinburgh, where, after going through the usual course of philosophy, he entered upon his theological studies: he attended the lectures of the professors, diligently applied to the study of the authors recommended by them, and proceeded so far as to



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1726



deliver in the public hall the usual academical exercise prescribed prior to ordination as a clergyman of the Scottish Establishment. At this point he stopped, and relinquished the profession of divinity altogether ; the sequel will sufficiently explain his motives for this change. Its immediate consequence was his retreat from Edinburgh to Dunse. Here he engaged himself as usher to the school which he had lately quitted ; and in this capacity he officiated a whole year, in the course of which one of the classes in the High School at Edinburgh becoming vacant, Brown appeared as a candidate, but proved unsuccessful.

When Brown renounced divinity, he turned his thoughts to the study of medicine ; and in order to defray the necessary expense attendant upon this new pursuit, he became what in college parlance is termed a "grinder," or preparer of Latin translations of the inaugural dissertations which medical students are bound to publish before taking their degree as Doctors in Medicine. His attention was first directed to this employment by accident. Application being made to one of his friends to procure a person sufficiently qualified to turn an essay of this kind into tolerable Latin, Brown was recommended, and performed the task in a manner that exceeded the expectations both of the friend and the candidate. When it was observed how much he had excelled the ordinary style of such compositions, he said he had now discovered his strength, and was ambitious of riding in his own carriage as a physician. This occurred towards the close of 1759.

Brown next turned his attention to the establishment of a boarding-house for students, a resource which would enable him to maintain a family. His reputation for various attainments was, he thought, likely to draw round him a number sufficient to fill a large house. With this prospect he married in 1765 Miss Euphemia Lamont, daughter of Mr. John Lamont, merchant in Edinburgh, by whom he had twelve children. His success answered his expectations, and his house was soon filled with respectable boarders ; but he lived too splendidly for his income ; and it is said that he managed so ill, that in two or three years he became bankrupt. Towards the end of 1770, he was miserably reduced in circumstances, but he nevertheless continued to maintain his original independence of character. He seemed to be happy in his family ; and, as far as could be observed, acquitted himself affectionately both as a husband and a parent. He still attended the medical classes, which, according to his own account, he had done for ten or eleven years.

From the celebrated Cullen he early received the most flattering marks of attention. This speculist, like Boerhaave, and other men of genius in the same station, was accustomed to watch the fluctuating body of students with a vigilant eye, and to seek the acquaintance of the most promising. Brown's intimate and classical knowledge of the Latin language served him as a peculiar recommendation ; and his circumstances might induce Cullen to believe that he could render this talent permanently useful to himself. Taking, therefore, its possessor under his immediate patronage, he gave him employment as a private instructor in his own family, and spared no pains in recommending

him to others. A close intimacy ensued. The favoured pupil was at length permitted to give an evening lecture, in which he repeated, and sometimes illustrated, the morning lecture of the professor, for which purpose he was entrusted with Cullen's own notes. This friendship, however, was not of permanent duration.

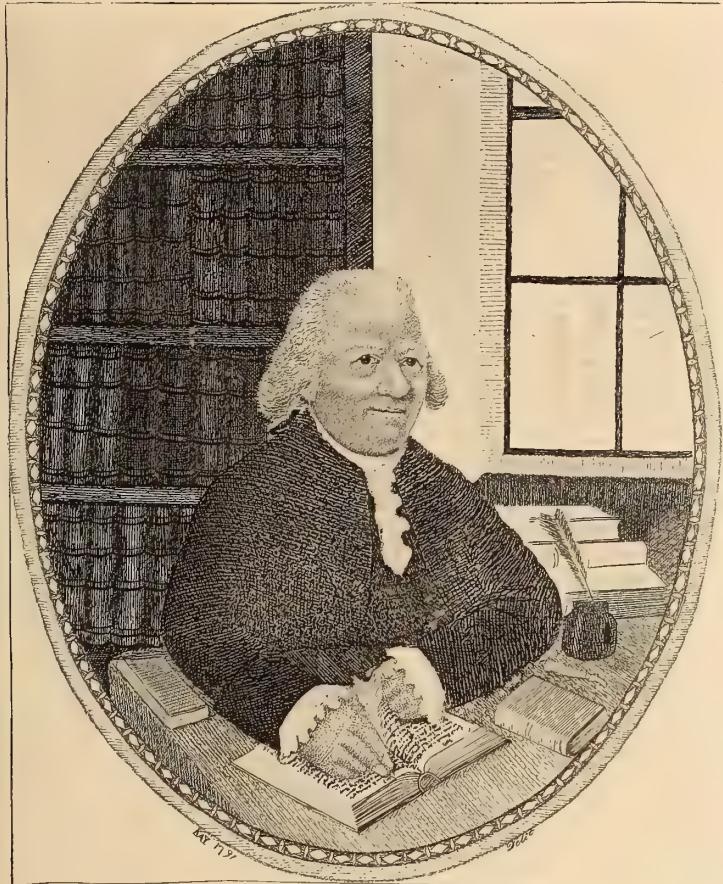
When the theoretical chair of medicine became vacant, Brown gave in his name as a candidate. On a former occasion, of a nature somewhat similar, he had disdained to avail himself of recommendations, which he might have obtained with ease; and, though his abilities were far superior to those of the other candidates, private interests then prevailed over the more just pretensions of merit. Such was his simplicity that he conceived nothing beyond pre-eminent qualifications necessary to success. The Magistrates and Council of Edinburgh were the patrons of this professorship, and they are reported, deridingly, to have inquired who this unknown and unfriended candidate was; and Cullen, on being shown the name, is said to have exclaimed, "Why, sure this can never be our Jock!"

Estranged from Dr. Cullen, Brown gradually became his greatest enemy, and shortly afterwards found out the New Theory, which gave occasion to his publishing the "*Elementa Medicinæ*," in the preface to which work he gives an account of the accident that led to this discovery. The approbation his work met with among his friends encouraged him to give lectures upon his system. Though these lectures were not very numerously attended by the students, owing to their dependence upon the professors, he had many adherents, to whom the sobriquet of "Brunonian" was attached.<sup>1</sup> It is unnecessary to enter upon all the angry disputes that subsequently arose. Suffice it to say that the enmity of his medical opponents, his own violence, and the pecuniary embarrassments he laboured under, ultimately compelled him to leave Edinburgh for London in 1786. During his residence in Edinburgh, Dr. Brown was elected President of the Medical Society in 1776, and again in 1780.

Observing that the students of medicine frequently sought initiation into the mysteries of Freemasonry, our author thought their youthful curiosity afforded him a chance of proselytes. In 1784 he instituted a society of that fraternity, and entitled it the "Lodge of the Roman Eagle." The business was conducted in the Latin language, which he spoke with uncommon fluency. "I was much diverted," observes Dr. Macdonald, "by his ingenuity in turning into Latin all the terms used in Masonry."

In lecturing, Dr. Brown had too frequently recourse to stimulants. He usually had a bottle of spirits—whisky generally—on one side, and a phial of laudanum on the other. Whenever he found himself languid preparatory to commencing, he would take forty or fifty drops of laudanum in a glass of whisky, repeating the quantity for four or five times during the course of the lecture. By these

<sup>1</sup> It may be mentioned as a curious fact, that a "perlegi" was ordered to be put at the end of each medical Thesis, for the purpose of seeing that no part of the Brunonian system was introduced by the candidates for a degree.



Ioannes Bruno M.D.  
Hercule! Opium minime sedat.

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means he soon waxed warm, and by degrees his imagination became dreadfully excited. Before leaving Edinburgh, he was so miserably reduced in his circumstances as to be committed to prison for debt, where his pupils attended his lectures. His liberation from jail was principally attributable to the exertions of the eccentric but amiable Lord Gardenstone.

Shortly after his arrival in London, the peculiarity of his appearance as he moved along—a short, square figure—with an air of dignity, in a black suit, which made the scarlet of his cheeks and nose the more resplendent—attracted the notice of certain “*Chevaliers d’Industrie*,” on the look-out for spoil in the street. They addressed him in the dialect of his country: his heart, heavy as it must have been from the precariousness of his situation and distance from his native land, expanded to these agreeable sounds. A conversation ensued, and the parties by common consent adjourned to a tavern. Here the stranger was kindly welcomed to town, and, after the glass had circulated for a time, something was proposed by way of amusement—a game at cards or whatever the Doctor might prefer. The Doctor had been too civilly treated to demur; but his purse was scantily furnished, and it was necessary to quit his new friends in search of a supply. Fortunately he applied to Mr. Murray the bookseller, who speedily enlightened him as to the quality of his companions.

A London sharper, of another denomination, afterwards tried to take advantage of the Doctor. This was an ingenious speculator in quack medicines. He thought a composition of the most powerful stimulants might have a run under the title of “Dr. Brown’s Exciting Pill;” and, for the privilege of the name, offered him a sum in hand, by no means contemptible, as well as a share of the contemplated profits. Poor Brown, needy as he was, to his honour indignantly rejected the proposal.

By his sojourn in London Brown did not improve his circumstances: he persisted in his old irregularities, projecting at the same time great designs, and entertaining sanguine expectations of success; but on the 7th of October 1788, when he was about fifty-two years of age, he was seized with a fit of apoplexy, and died in the course of the night.

#### No. XXVII.

#### DR. BROWN IN HIS STUDY,

Writing, we have little doubt, his “Elements of Medicine,” a new edition of which, revised and corrected by Dr. Beddoes, was printed in two vols. 8vo, in 1793.

No. XXVIII.

SIR JAMES HUNTER BLAIR, BART.,

LATE LORD PROVOST OF EDINBURGH,

Is here represented in his robes, and holding a plan of the South Bridge in his hand. From Kay's own authority we learn, that "he etched this Print by express commission, for which he received a guinea for the first impression and at the rate of half-a-guinea for another dozen."

Sir James was the second son of Mr. John Hunter, merchant in Ayr, and was born in that town on the 21st day of February 1741. His father acquired considerable property in land and money, and left his children, who were still young at his death, in easy circumstances. In the year 1756, Sir James was placed as an apprentice in the house of the brothers Coutts, bankers in Edinburgh. It was at this time that his friendship commenced with Sir William Forbes, who was then a fellow-clerk in the Bank. Sir William, in a letter written after the death of Sir James, observes, "Our friendship terminated only with his life, after an intimacy which few brothers can boast of, during thirty-one years, in which long period we never had a difference, nor a separation of interest."

After the death of Mr. John Coutts, the principal partner of the house, Sir William and Mr. Hunter were admitted to a share of the business in 1763,<sup>1</sup> and gradually rose to the head of the copartnery.

In December 1770, he married Jane, eldest daughter of John Blair, Esq. of Dunskey, in the county of Wigton. This lady's father, at his death, left no fewer than six sons, four of whom were alive at the time of their sister's marriage, but all having died, she succeeded, in 1777, to the family estate. Sir James on this occasion assumed the name of Blair, and was afterwards, in the year 1786, created a Baronet of Great Britain.

On the estate which had thus unexpectedly devolved to him he commenced a plan of most extensive and judicious improvements. He nearly rebuilt the town of Portpatrick ; he repaired and greatly improved the harbour ; established packet-boats of a larger size on the much-frequented passage to Donaghadee in Ireland ; and lastly, while the farmers in that part of Scotland were not very well acquainted with the most approved modes of farming, he set before them a successful example of the best modes of agriculture, perhaps the greatest service to his country which can be performed by a man in private life.

In September 1781, he was called, without any solicitation on his part, to represent the city of Edinburgh in Parliament ; and at the general election in summer 1784, he received the same honour ; but before the end of the first

<sup>1</sup> About this time Sir James first became a member of the Town-Council.



R. R. 1786



Session he resigned his seat, to the surprise of many, in favour of Sir Adam Fergusson, Bart., as he found his professional avocations required an attendance quite incompatible with his Parliamentary duties.

At Michaelmas 1784, in compliance with the urgent request of the Town-Council, he was elected Lord Provost of Edinburgh; and he speedily evinced his public spirit by setting on foot various projects for the improvement of the city, not the least important among which was the rebuilding of the College. The access to Edinburgh from the south, on account of the narrowness and steepness of the lanes, was not only very incommodious but even hazardous; and, accordingly, it had been proposed to open a communication between the High Street and the southern parts of the city and suburbs by means of a bridge over the Cowgate. This scheme, although its great importance was abundantly obvious, appeared so expensive, and was attended with so many other difficulties, that every previous attempt had proved unsuccessful, and it required all the address and influence of the Lord Provost to carry it into execution.

In order to defray the great expense, Sir James devised means which, to men of less discernment or knowledge in business, appeared very inadequate to the purpose. His scheme was this: The property which lay in the line of the intended communication, and to a considerable distance on each side of that line, was to be purchased at its real value at the time; and after the communication was opened, such parts of the ground thus purchased as were not to be left vacant, were to be disposed of for the purpose of erecting buildings, according to a plan prepared for the purpose. Sir James conceived that the sale of these areas, in consequence of the great improvement of their situation, would raise money sufficient, not only to pay for the first purchase of the property, but also to defray the expense of building the bridge, and whatever else was necessary for completing the communication. But lest there should be any deficiency, and in order to afford security for borrowing the money which might be requisite, the trustees for carrying on the work were to be empowered to levy a sum not exceeding 10 per cent of the valued rents of the houses in Edinburgh and the environs; and, to remove all cause of complaint, he proposed that if any of the owners of the property to be purchased should not agree with the trustees, the price of their property should be fixed by the verdict of a jury, consisting of fifteen persons, to be chosen by lot out of forty-five proprietors of houses or lands in the city or county, named by the Sheriff in each particular case.

These proposals were published in November 1784, and met with the same reception which has often attended schemes of still greater importance and more extensive utility. They were censured and vigorously opposed. A man of less ardour and public spirit would have yielded to the discouragements which Sir James experienced on this occasion. Fortunately he was of such a temper that they served only to stimulate his exertions, without rendering him less prudent in his measures. His perseverance surmounted every opposition. An Act of Parliament was obtained for carrying into execution not only the plan which has been mentioned, but likewise several others, of great importance to the city;

and on the 1st day of August 1785, the work was begun by laying the foundation-stone of the South Bridge which now connects, by an easy and spacious communication, the suburbs on the south with the rest of the city.

The foundation of the new bridge was laid with great solemnity by the Right Hon. Lord Haddo, Grand Master Mason of Scotland, in presence of the Lord Provost and Magistrates, a number of the nobility and gentry, and the master, officers, and brethren of all the Lodges of Freemasons in the city and neighbourhood.

In the foundation-stone were cut five holes, wherein the Substitute Grand-Master put some coins of his Majesty George III., and covered them with a plate, on which was engraven an inscription in Latin, the translation of which is as follows :—

“By the blessing of Almighty God, in the reign of George III., the father of his country, the Right Hon. George Lord Haddo, Grand-Master of the most ancient fraternity of Freemasons in Scotland, amidst the acclamations of a Grand Assembly of the Brethren, and of a vast concourse of people, laid the first stone of this bridge, intended to form a convenient communication between the city of Edinburgh and its suburbs and an access not unworthy of such a city.

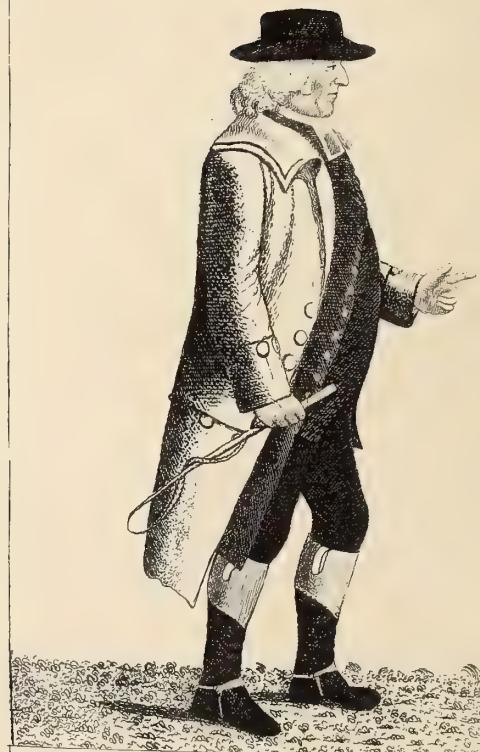
“This work, so useful to the inhabitants, so pleasing and convenient to strangers, so ornamental to the city, so creditable to the country, so long and much wanted and wished for, was at last begun with the sanction of the King and Parliament of Great Britain, and with universal approbation, in the Provostship of James Hunter Blair, the author and indefatigable promoter of the undertaking, August the first, in the year of our Lord 1785, and of the era of Masonry 5785, which may God prosper.”

Sir James lived only to see the commencement of the great works which he had projected. In spring 1787, he went to Harrogate for the recovery of his health, but without the appearance of any alarming complaint. The waters had not the success which he expected. In the month of June his indisposition was much increased, and terminated in a fever. He died on the first day of July 1787, in the forty-seventh year of his age. His remains were conveyed to Edinburgh and deposited in the Greyfriars' churchyard.

In private life Sir James was affable and cheerful, warmly attached to his friends, and anxious for their success. As a magistrate, he was upright, liberal, and disinterested. His talents were of the highest order—to an unwearyed application, he united great knowledge of the world, sagacity in business, and soundness of understanding ; and he died unusually respected.

Hunter Square and Blair Street, where the King's Printing Office was situated, were named after Sir James, whose estate and titles were inherited by the respected Sir David Hunter Blair, Bart., who also held the appointment of Printer to his Majesty.





*The preserver of the Church from Fanaticism*

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## No. XXIX.

## ALEXANDER CARLYLE, D.D., INVERESK.

THIS Print gives a very striking likeness of one of the chief leaders of the Court party in our Church judicatures. From his repeated exertions in favour of the law of patronage, and frequently styling the popular party "Fanatics," Kay has given him the curious title at the bottom of the Print.

Dr. Carlyle (born January 26, 1722; died August 25, 1805) is memorable as a member—though an inactive one—of the brilliant fraternity of literary men who attracted attention in Scotland during the latter half of the eighteenth century. His father was the minister of Prestonpans. He received his education at the Universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Leyden. While he attended these schools of learning, his elegant and manly accomplishments gained him admission into the most polished circles, at the same time that the superiority of his understanding and the refinement of his taste introduced him to the particular notice of men of science and literature. At the breaking out of the insurrection of 1745, being only twenty-three years of age, he thought proper to enroll himself in a body of volunteers, which was raised at Edinburgh to defend the city. This corps was dissolved on the approach of the Highland army, when he retired to his father's house at Prestonpans, where the tide of war soon followed him. Sir John Cope having pitched his camp in the immediate neighbourhood of Prestonpans, the Highlanders attacked him early on the morning of the 21st of September, and soon gained a decisive victory; Carlyle was awoke by an account that the armies were engaged, when, in order to have a view of the action, he hurried to the top of the village-steeple, where he arrived only in time to see the regular soldiers flying in all directions to escape the broadswords of the Highlanders.

Having gone through the usual exercises prescribed by the Church of Scotland, he was presented, in 1748, to the living of Inveresk, near Edinburgh, which he retained for the long period of fifty-seven years. His talents as a preacher were of the highest order, and contributed much to introduce into the Scottish pulpit an elegance of manner and delicacy of taste, to which this part of the United Kingdom had been formerly a stranger, but of which it has since afforded some brilliant examples. In the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Dr. Carlyle acted on the *moderate* side, and, next to Dr. Robertson, was one of the most instrumental members of that party in reducing the government of the Church to the tranquillity which it experienced almost down to our own time. It was owing chiefly to his active exertions, that the clergy of the Church of Scotland, in consideration of their moderate incomes, and of their living in official houses, were exempted from the severe pressure of

the house and window tax. With this object in view he spent some time in London, and was introduced at Court, where the elegance of his manners, and the dignity of his appearance, are said to have excited both surprise and admiration. He succeeded in his efforts, though no clause to that effect was introduced into any Act of Parliament. The ministers were charged annually with the duty, but the collectors received private instructions that no steps should be taken to enforce payment.

Public spirit was a conspicuous part of the character of the Doctor. The love of his country seemed to be the most active principle of his heart, and the direction in which it was guided at a period which seriously menaced the good order of society, was productive of incalculable benefit among those over whom his influence extended. He was so fortunate in his early days as to form an acquaintance with all those celebrated men whose names have added splendour to the literary history of the eighteenth century. Smollett, in his "Expedition of Humphry Clinker," a work in which fact and fiction are curiously blended, mentions that he owed to Dr. Carlyle his introduction to the literary circles of Edinburgh. After mentioning a list of celebrated names, he adds—"These acquaintances I owe to the friendship of Dr. Carlyle, who wants nothing but inclination to figure with the rest upon paper."

Dr. Carlyle was a particular friend of Mr. Home, the author of *Douglas*, and that tragedy, if we are not misinformed, was, previous to its being represented, submitted to his revision. It is even stated, although there appears no evidence of the truth of the assertion, that Dr. Carlyle, at a private rehearsal in Mrs. Ward's lodgings in the Canongate, acted the part of *Old Norval*, Dr. Robertson performing *Lord Randolph*—David Hume, *Glenalvon*, and Dr. Blair !! *Anna*<sup>1</sup>—*Lady Randolph* being enacted by the author. He exerted, as may be supposed, his utmost efforts to oppose that violent opposition which was raised against Mr. Home by the puritanical spirit, which, though by that time somewhat mitigated, was still far from being extinguished in this country ;<sup>2</sup> and successfully withstood a prosecution before the Church courts for attending the performance of the tragedy of *Douglas*.

Dr. Carlyle rendered an essential service to literature, in the recovery of Collins' long lost "Ode on the Superstitions of the Highlands." The author, on his death-bed, had mentioned it to Dr. Johnson as the best of his poems, but it was not in his possession, and no search had been able to discover a copy. At last, Dr. Carlyle found it accidentally among his papers, and presented it to

<sup>1</sup> See Edinburgh Evening Post, January 31, 1829.

<sup>2</sup> Upon occasion of the representation of the tragedy, a variety of squibs, both for and against, issued from the press. In one of them, entitled, "The First Night's Audience, an excellent new ballad, to the tune of 'A cobbler there was,'" 4to, pp. 4, occurs the following stanza, applicable to Dr. Carlyle :—

" Hid close in the green-room some clergymen lay,  
Good actors themselves too—their whole life a play ;  
C—lyle with a cudgel and genius rare,  
With aspect as stern as a Hessian hussar.  
Derry down," etc.





THE MODERN HERCULES DESTROYING THE HYDRA OF FANATICISM

the Royal Society of Edinburgh, in the first volume of whose Transactions it was published ; and by the public in general, as well as by the author himself, it has always been numbered among the finest productions of the poet.

It is much to be regretted that Dr. Carlyle favoured the world with so little from his own pen, having published scarcely anything except the Report of the Parish of Inveresk, in Sir John Sinclair's Statistical Account, and some detached pamphlets and sermons. To his pen has been justly attributed "An Ironical Argument, to prove that the tragedy of *Douglas* ought to be publicly burnt by the hands of the hangman."—Edinburgh, 1757, 8vo, pp. 24.<sup>1</sup> It is understood that Dr. Carlyle left behind him, in manuscript, a very curious Memoir of his time, which, though long delayed, we have now reason to believe will soon in part be given to the world.<sup>2</sup>

With the following description of the personal appearance of Dr. Carlyle, when advanced in years, the proprietor of this work has been favoured by a gentleman to whom the literature of his country owes much :

"He was very tall, and held his head erect like a military man—his face had been very handsome—long venerable gray hair—he was an old man when I met him on a morning visit at the Duke of Buccleuch's at Dalkeith."

No. XXX.

### THE MODERN HERCULES.

THIS is a humorous piece of satire upon Dr. Carlyle and the opposition he has uniformly met with from the leading men of the popular party. The uppermost head on the hydra is that of Professor Dalzell of the University of Edinburgh—the one below it that of the Rev. Dr. John Erskine of Carnock, minister of Old Greyfriars' Church, intended for the bar by his father, but his own inclination was for the pulpit—the undermost head that of the much-esteemed Rev. Dr. Andrew Hunter of the Tron Kirk—and the figure with the hand up, cautioning Dr. Carlyle, that of the Hon. Henry Erskine, advocate, who was generally employed as counsel on the side of the popular party. The other three were intended by Kay, according to his MS., for the Rev. Colin Campbell of Renfrew, the Rev. Mr. Burns of Forgan, and the Rev. Dr. Balfour of Glasgow.

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Carlyle is said to have written the prologue to *Herminius and Espasia*, a tragedy acted at Edinburgh, 1754, and printed that same year in 8vo.

<sup>2</sup> This has now been published by Messrs. William Blackwood & Sons, one volume 8vo, 1860. A second edition was issued the same year, entitled "Autobiography of the Rev. Dr. Alexander Carlyle, Minister of Inveresk, containing Memorials of the Men and Events of his time."

## No. XXXI.

## ADAM RITCHIE.

THIS old man was by occupation a cowfeeder ; he resided at Fountainbridge near the West Port of Edinburgh. He was born in the year 1683, and died in 1789, at the age of 106 years and two months. He was in perfect good health in 1786, three years before his death, when he sat for this picture, and gave an account of himself as follows, *viz.*—

“ That he had lived very fast, and accustomed himself much to hard drinking in the early period of his life, and that this regimen agreed so well with his constitution that he grew very corpulent—so much so, that he could not bend himself so as to buckle his own shoes ; and in order to get rid of that incumbrance, he was afterwards under the necessity of living more sparingly, which, in the course of a short time, reduced his person down to its original size. He was under arms during the rebellion in 1715, and fought on the side of the House of Hanover, not from choice (as he said) but necessity, he having been forced into the ranks to supply the place of his master’s son. He had a very warm attachment to the House of Stuart, and would have preferred following the Prince. That when he was about eighty years of age, he, as well as his wife became so very infirm, that they were confined for several years constantly in bed ; and latterly he had the misfortune to lose his wife by the hand of death, on which occasion he was resolved, if possible, to attend her remains to the place of interment. He consequently collected all the strength he could muster, and succeeded so far in carrying his resolution into effect as to be able to follow the funeral on horseback. After this successful attempt, he found his health daily increasing ; and in the course of a short period he was so much recovered as to be able once more to go about his usual employment. He in fact got so very stout, that he imagined his youth returned as well as his health. As a proof of this, he had the fortitude to ask a young woman of eighteen years of age in marriage, who actually would have accepted of him as her husband, had not her mother and other interested relations dissuaded her from the match. After this he courted another, somewhat older, who gave her consent ; but our bridegroom unfortunately happening to discover her one day in a state of intoxication, broke off the match himself, and resolved he never would ask another. Yet he afterwards asked his own servant, who then was with him, and who was very careful and kind to him ; but she never would consent to marry him.”

He also stated that he never had any disease in his life, not even so much as headache or toothache. He had all his teeth fresh and complete, and made it his boast that he could crack a nut with the youngest and stoutest person in the



ADAM RITCHIE BORN 1683 DIED 1789  
DRAWN FROM THE LIFE

KAY. Ed. 1796







H. KAY. DEL. SCULP.Q 1788.

parish. He still took a hearty glass ; as a proof of this, he drank an equal share of eight bottles of strong ale one evening with his limner and a friend. He at that period had a brother in life, only two years younger than himself, whose wife was then bearing children.

One of his sons happening to be present, in the course of conversation asked the company "What age they supposed him to be?" From his juvenile appearance and ruddy complexion, they guessed him at thirty-four, and were not a little astonished when he informed them that he was thirty years older !

No. XXXII.

ANGELO TREMAMONDO, ESQ.,

RIDING-MASTER,

As his almost unpronounceable name indicates, was a native of Italy. He came to Edinburgh about the year 1768, and was the first public teacher of riding in Scotland, having been appointed "Master of the Royal Riding Menage," for which he had a salary from Government. The people of Scotland are proverbial for a hatred to long names ; so in their hands Angelo dwindled down to plain "*Ainslie*," and Tremamondo<sup>1</sup> was unceremoniously discarded. "Ainslie" lived in Nicolson Square, and was reputed to be wealthy. Having accidentally got a small piece of steel into one of his eyes, nearly all the physicians in Edinburgh were consulted, but without effect. At last Tremamondo was directed to Miller, the famous oculist, who succeeded in restoring his sight ; but, unfortunately for the Italian, he succeeded also in becoming his son-in-law very soon after. The Doctor, perhaps, loved Miss Tremamondo well enough, but it afterwards appeared he had likewise "cast an eye" on her papa's purse ; and, thinking that the old fellow did not "tell out" fast enough, a lawsuit was the unhappy consequence. Like all other lawsuits, where there is anything like a fat goose to be plucked, it was carried on for a length of time with various success. Kay's MS. mentions that when Tremamondo received the first summons from his friend of the lancet, he was transported into a regular tornado of passion. He tore down a picture of his daughter which hung in the parlour, and, dashing it in pieces, threw it into the fire. While the old Italian and his son-in-law were thus pulling and hauling, the daughter, like a too sensitive plant, died of a "broken heart." Tremamondo died at Edinburgh, in April 1805, aged eighty-four.

Of the Riding-Master's early history very little is known ; but from a work

<sup>1</sup> It might have been a mere mountebank name of his own assumption—it means a trembling of the world—an universal earthquake.

published by his nephew in 1830, entitled "Reminiscences of Henry Angelo," we are made acquainted with the fact of his having an elder brother of the same profession, and who resided principally in London.

In these reminiscences Angelo the younger speaks very highly of his father, Dominico Angelo Malevolti Tremamondo—not only was he the best "master of equitation," but one of the most "scientific swordsmen of the day"; and so well proportioned in lith and limb, as to be equally fitted for a "gallant in love or a hero in war."

Angelo the elder was a native of Leghorn. His father, being a wealthy merchant there, intended him for the counting-house, but the ledger had no charms for the handsome Tremamondo, who determined to push his fortune by other means. He accordingly visited various parts of the Continent, and soon found his way to Paris, at that time, if not now, the gayest and most polite city in the world; and so effectually did Tremamondo cultivate every external accomplishment, that he became proverbially one of the most elegant men of the age, "the gayest of the gay."

Not long before he left Paris, a public fencing-match took place at a celebrated hotel, at which were present the most renowned professors and amateurs of the science. Tremamondo was persuaded by the Duc de Nivernois<sup>1</sup> to try his skill. No sooner had he entered the lists than a celebrated English beauty, Miss Margaret Woffington, the well-known actress, presented him with a *bouquet* of roses, which, as we are told, he placed on his breast with the most exquisite gallantry, and, addressing the other knights of the sword, exclaimed, "This will I protect against all opposers." Tremamondo fenced with the best of them, but none could disturb a single leaf of his *bouquet*.

While in Paris, Tremamondo had formed an acquaintance with a French officer, who boasted much of his fencing abilities. Motives of jealousy induced him to waylay our hero one night, who happened to be only armed with a *couteau de chasse*, a small sword usually worn in undress. Tremamondo, acting on the defensive for some time, at last made a home-thrust at the officer, who fell, and there was every reason to think he was mortally wounded. The officer was taken home. Next day Tremamondo visited him, and, although he found him in bed gasping, he did not think there was enough of alteration in the officer's countenance for so serious an injury. He immediately suspected there had been deception, and, throwing the bed-clothes suddenly off, discovered the officer's *cotte de maille*. The officer, ashamed at his cowardly conduct, and dreading the stigma, implored secrecy and forgiveness.

Shortly after our hero's arrival in London, he married Miss Masters, whose father had commanded the Chester man-of-war. About the year 1758 he was engaged by the Princess Dowager of Wales "to teach the young princes the

<sup>1</sup> The Duc de Nivernois was afterwards ambassador in England from the Court of France. Hume the historian, in a letter dated the 6th October 1763, to Dr. Blair, respecting Ossian's Poems, mentions the Duc as desirous of obtaining some proofs of their authenticity, which he proposed to lay before the Académie de Belles Lettres at Paris.

use of the small-sword, and subsequently, to teach them to ride in the menage."—"During this time," continues Angelo the younger, "my father frequently took me thither, when he attended his royal pupils, and I rarely came away without a pocketful of sweetmeats." At an interview with the King, on which occasion Tremamondo displayed the various styles of riding on his favourite horse Monarch, among others that of riding the "great horse," his Majesty was pleased to declare that Angelo was the most elegant horseman of his day; and it was in consequence of this interview that the King persuaded Mr. West, the celebrated artist, when he was commissioned to paint the picture of the "Battle of the Boyne," to make a study of Tremamondo for the equestrian figure of King William. He also sat to the sculptor for the statue of King William, subsequently set up in Merrion Square, Dublin.

While in London, Tremamondo was challenged to a trial of skill with a Dr. Keys, reputed the most expert fencer in Ireland. The scene of action was in an apartment of the Thatched House Tavern, where many ladies and gentlemen were present. When Tremamondo entered, arm-in-arm with his patron, Lord Pembroke, he found the Doctor without his coat and waistcoat, his shirt sleeves tucked up, and displaying a pair of brawny arms—the Doctor being a tall athletic figure. After the Doctor had swallowed a bumper of *Cognac* he began the attack with great violence. Tremamondo acted for some time on the defensive, with all the grace and elegance for which he was renowned, and after having planted a dozen palpable hits on the breast of his enraged antagonist, he made his bow to the ladies, and retired amid the plaudits of the spectators.

Angelo the younger relates another anecdote of his father, which he calls "a fencing-master's quarrel." Shortly after Tremamondo's appointment as fencing-master to the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York, a Mr. Redman, an Irishman, who had been formerly patronised by the royal family, was continually abusing Tremamondo for a foreigner, and for having supplanted him. They met one day in the Haymarket, where words ensued, and then blows—the Irishman with a shillelah, and the Italian with a cane. On this occasion also, Tremamondo was victorious, having broken his opponent's head; but next day, to wipe off the disgrace of having fought like porters, he challenged his rival to meet him with swords, but Redman answered that he would put him in "the Crown Office," and immediately entered an action against him in the King's Bench, which ended in Tremamondo having to pay £100 damages and £90 costs.

So much for the gallant Dominico Angelo Malevolti Tremamondo. We find little more recorded of him than that he was acquainted with almost all the celebrated characters of his day, whether of the "sock and buskin," or the gymnastic "art of equitation." He was generous in the extreme, and Angelo the younger had an opportunity at his father's well-replenished table of forming a most extensive and interesting acquaintance.

Old Dominico died at Eton in 1802, aged eighty-six, and was so much in possession of his faculties that he gave a lesson in fencing the day before his death.

No. XXXIII.

LORD ROCKVILLE.

DR. ADAM SMITH, AND  
COMMISSIONER BROWN.

THE first of these figures represents the Honourable ALEXANDER GORDON, third son of William second Earl of Aberdeen, by Lady Ann Gordon, daughter of Alexander second Duke of Gordon. He was born in 1739, and, having studied for the bar, was admitted Advocate, 7th August 1759. He was appointed Steward-depute of Kirkcudbright in 1764, which office he held until the year 1784, when, on the death of David Dalrymple of Westhall, he was promoted to be one of the Senators of the College of Justice, and took his seat on the 1st of July, under the title of Lord Rockville, from an estate which he purchased in the county of Haddington. His lordship lived in that close in the Castlehill now called Rockville's Close, and afterwards removed to St. Andrew Square, but did not long enjoy the honours conferred upon him; for one day when stepping from the door of his own house, in order to attend his duty in the Parliament House, he slipped his foot, fell, and broke his leg, in consequence of which he feavered, and the progress of disease could not be arrested by the best medical skill that Edinburgh could afford. This accident terminated in his death, after a very short illness, on the 13th of March 1792. "He adorned the bench by the dignified manliness of his appearance, and polished urbanity of his manners."<sup>1</sup> Though somewhat above the ordinary height, his lordship was a very handsome man. He married the Countess of Dumfries and Stair, by whom he had a family.

His lordship was a member of a convivial club, called the "Cochallan Fencibles," which held its nocturnal revels in Daniel Douglas's tavern, Anchor Close. One evening previous to his being raised to the bench, Lord Rockville made his appearance with the most rueful expression of countenance imaginable, and upon being asked what was the matter, he exclaimed with great solemnity, "Gentlemen, I have just met with the most wonderful adventure that ever befell a human being. As I was walking along the Grassmarket, all of a sudden the street rose up and struck me in the face!" This extraordinary announcement created much astonishment, which, however, soon abated upon its being ascertained that the narrator had been making too free with the bottle, and that, whilst in this state, he had fallen upon his face. This adventure afforded much amusement to the merry wags assembled, and his lordship was sadly teased to explain why "the very stones in Rome had risen in mutiny!" This anecdote

<sup>1</sup> Douglas's Peerage, vol. i. p. 22.



R. Fe. 1787

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of his lordship is somewhat similar to that of the drunk man, who, having fallen, was observed most anxiously attempting to grasp the floor; and when asked what he meant by so doing, angrily answered, "Why, you fool! to prevent tumbling upwards, to be sure!"

The centre figure represents ADAM SMITH, LL.D., who was born at Kirkcaldy, on the 5th of June 1723, a few months after the death of his father, who was Comptroller of the Customs of that town. His mother was Margaret Douglas, daughter of Mr. Douglas of Strathenry. His constitution was very delicate, and required all the care and attention which a kind parent could bestow. She is reported to have treated him with unlimited indulgence; but this produced no injurious effects upon his disposition, and during the long period of sixty years he was enabled to repay her kindness by every token which filial gratitude could inspire. A singular incident happened to him when about three years old. Whilst with his mother at Strathenry, where she was on a visit, he was one day amusing himself at the door of the house, when he was stolen by a party of vagrants, known in Scotland by the name of tinkers—*Anglice*, Egyptians or Muggers. Fortunately he was immediately missed, and his uncle pursuing them, found them located in Leslie Wood, where he was rescued from their hands.

At a proper age young Smith was sent to the parish school of Kirkcaldy, then taught by Mr. David Miller, a teacher, in his day, of considerable repute. In 1737, he repaired to the University of Glasgow, where he remained till 1740. Being elected as an exhibitioner on Snell's foundation, he went to Baliol College, Oxford, and resided there for seven years. Mr. Snell's foundation is perhaps one of the largest and most liberal in Britain. In the year 1688, he bequeathed an estate in Warwickshire for the support of Scottish students at Baliol College, Oxford, who had studied for some years at the University of Glasgow, in which the patronage is vested. They now amount to ten, and may remain at Oxford for ten years.

Dr. Smith had been originally destined for the Church of England, but not finding the ecclesiastical profession suitable to his taste, he abandoned the path that had been chalked out for him, returned to Kirkcaldy, and lived two years with his mother. He fixed his residence in Edinburgh in 1748, and during that and following years, under the patronage of Lord Kames, he read Lectures on Rhetoric and the Belles Lettres. In 1751 he was elected Professor of Logic in the University of Glasgow, and in the subsequent year was removed to the Professorship of Moral Philosophy in the same seminary. He remained in this position thirteen years, and frequently was wont to look back to this period as the most useful and happy of his life.

In 1755, "The Edinburgh Review" was projected, and to this work—which only reached two numbers, and is now remarkable for its scarcity—he contributed a review of Dr. Johnson's Dictionary, and a letter addressed to the editors, containing observations on the state of literature in the different

countries of Europe. The “Theory of Moral Sentiments” appeared in 1759, and the same volume contained a dissertation on the origin of languages, and on the different genius of those which are original and compounded. Towards the end of 1763, he received an invitation from the Right Hon. Charles Townshend, to accompany Henry Duke of Buccleuch on his travels, and the liberal terms of the proposal made, added to the strong desire he had felt of visiting the Continent of Europe, induced him to resign his Professorship at Glasgow. Before he left that city, he requested all his pupils to attend him, and as each name was called over he returned the several sums he had received as fees, saying, that as he had not completely fulfilled his engagement, he was resolved his class should be instructed that year *gratis*, and the remainder of his lectures should be read by one of the senior students.

After leaving Glasgow, he joined the Duke at London early in 1764, and set out for Paris in the month of March. In this first visit to Paris they only spent ten or twelve days, and then proceeded to Toulouse, where they fixed their residence : they next undertook a pretty extensive tour through the south of France, to Geneva, and about Christmas 1765, revisited Paris, where they resided till October 1766, when the Duke returned to London.

For the next ten years Dr. Smith lived chiefly with his mother in Kirkcaldy, and his time was entirely occupied by his studies. In the beginning of 1776, he gave to the world the result of his labour, by the publication of his “Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations.” About two years after the appearance of this work, he was appointed one of the Commissioners of his Majesty’s Customs in Scotland, a preferment bestowed upon him through the interest of the Duke of Buccleuch. When he obtained this appointment he offered to resign the annuity of £300 per annum, which had been granted him for superintending the Duke’s education and travels, an offer which was immediately declined. The greater part of the two years preceding his appointment he lived in London in a society too extensive and varied to afford him any opportunity of indulging his taste for study, although much of it was spent with some of the most distinguished literary characters, as may be seen by the following verses by Dr. Barnard, addressed to Sir Joshua Reynolds and his friends :—

“ If I have thoughts and can’t express ‘em,  
Gibbon shall teach me how to dress ‘em,  
In words select and terse ;  
Jones teach me modesty and Greek,  
Smith how to think, Burke how to speak,  
And Bendire to converse.”

In 1778, Dr. Smith removed to Edinburgh, with the view of attending to the duties of his new office, where he passed the last twelve years of his life, enjoying an affluence more than equal to all his wants. He now and then revisited London. The last time he was there, he had engaged to dine with Lord Melville, then Mr. Dundas, at Wimbledon ; Mr. Pitt, Mr. Grenville, Mr. Addington, afterwards Lord Sidmouth, and some other of his lordship’s friends were there.





*The Author of the Wealth of Nations*

KAY  
1790

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Dr. Smith happened to come late, and the company had sat down to dinner. The moment, however, he came into the room, the company all rose up; he made an apology for being late, and entreated them to sit down. "No," said the gentlemen, "we will stand till you are seated, *for we are all your scholars.*" His mother died in extreme old age in 1784. His own health and strength gradually declined (for he began very early to feel the infirmities of age), till the period of his death, which happened in July 1790. A few days previous to this he gave orders to destroy all his manuscripts, excepting some detached Essays, which were afterwards published, having been entrusted to the care of his executors, Dr. Joseph Black and Dr. James Hutton, with whom he had long lived in habits of the most intimate friendship. Although Dr. Smith's income for the latter years of his life was considerable, he did not leave much fortune, owing to the hospitality and generosity of his nature. No man ever did more generous things. It is understood that his library, which was a valuable one, is still preserved entire. It had devolved to his nephew, the late Lord Reston, and afterwards became the property of his widow.

The third figure represents GEORGE BROWN, Esq., of Lindsaylands and Elliestown, one of the Commissioners of his Majesty's Board of Excise for Scotland, a gentleman of amiable temper and suavity of manner. He had been an officer in the army, and was cousin-german to the late Lord Coalstone, one of the Lords of Session. His brother James was an architect of some eminence. He built Brown's Square (which was named after him), near to the Candlemaker Row, the west side of which has been taken down, for an opening to George the Fourth's Bridge; and having feued from the city of Edinburgh the ground upon which George Square is built, he erected most of the houses in it. He built also that large mansion formerly occupied by General Scott of Balconie, in Drummond Place, now the Excise-Office.<sup>1</sup>

The Commissioner was very attentive to the business of the revenue, and was for a considerable number of years senior member of the Board of Excise in Scotland. He lived in George Square, and latterly in St. James's Square, and died on the 5th March 1806, in the eighty-fourth year of his age. He married Miss Dorothea Dundas of Dundas, by whom he had two sons and three daughters, Viscountess Hampden, Lady Wedderburn of Ballendean, and the Hon. Lady Alexander Hope.

#### No. XXXIV.

### ADAM SMITH, LL.D. AND F.R.S.

OF LONDON AND EDINBURGH.

THE Doctor is here represented with his celebrated work, "The Wealth of Nations," on the table before him.

<sup>1</sup> This house was removed in 1844-1845, in consequence of a railway tunnel being carried immediately underneath it.

No. XXXV.

### THE SAPIENT SEPTEMVIRI.

KING'S COLLEGE, ABERDEEN.

THE original design of this curious Print was sent to Kay by a Mr. Ross, a native of Aberdeen, and formerly student of medicine, of whom all that is known is, that he obtained the situation of a surgeon in the navy, but lost it in consequence of having made his brother officers the victims of his talent for *caricatura*.

The Seven Professors of King's College, caricatured in this Print, were all hostile to a scheme of the day (1786), for the union of King's and Marischal Colleges.<sup>1</sup> There is perhaps still in existence a similar effort of Ross's pencil, in which some of the Professors of Marischal College make a not less ridiculous figure. This last Print we have never chanced to see, but we have been informed that the famous Principal Campbell occupied a conspicuous place in it, and that attached to his effigies was the punning interrogatory—"What do the Scriptures *Principal*-ly teach?"

In the above print DR. SKENE OGILVY is represented as inculcating on the Septemviri the duty of returning good for evil. The Doctor was senior minister of Old Aberdeen, and was formerly minister of the parish of Skene. He was a man of great natural talents, but was never remarkable for much application. His powers as a preacher were of no ordinary cast, and many yet remember the stirring effect of his eloquence on his hearers. He was remarkable for a vein of broad humour, and abounded with amusing anecdote, but unfortunately his many happy sayings have "left but their fame behind." The Doctor carried his contempt of external appearances of religion to a length which some were disposed to regard as inconsistent with the gravity of the clerical character. In reference to this trait, he used to relate with great glee the following anecdote: Soon after his settlement at Skene, he overheard the beadle and sexton of the parish discussing the merits of their new minister! "I dinna think," said the sexton, "that our new man has the religion o' the auld."—"Weel," continued the beadle, "if he has nae religion he pretends to as little."

When the Doctor was a student at College, it was customary for the aspirants to the degree of A.M. to deliver a thesis in the public hall of the College: when Skene's turn came, he mounted the rostrum, and began to make diligent search in all his pockets for his MS.; no papers, however, were forthcoming. Nothing disconcerted, he very coolly took out an immense mull, and, after a

<sup>1</sup> This union was at length effected in the year 1860.

## The Sapient Septemviri



1 The Beauty of Holiness, Lecturing.

2 Had you not sold your Patronages, First Minister might have been annexed to my Divine Choir of Verity & Taste.

3 Annually for 45 years and upwards have I beat up, even to the Ultima Thule, where I recruited our University.

4 Have rendered Vernacular the Greek Language from Aberdeen to Aberdeen.

5 Agriculture is the Noblest of Sciences, mind your Glebes, the Emperor of China is a Farmer.

6 Has not the Effudgence of my Countenance been a light unto your fist, and a lamp unto your Paths.

7 Colledge property, Patronages are unalienable, so says the Law, the Noble Patron has rewarded most justly your Rapacity.

8 Dignes Male and Female in Medicine and Midwifery, sold here for ready money.



hearty pinch of snuff, exclaimed, “*Vir sapit qui pauca loquitur!*” and then descended from the rostrum with the greatest composure.

He used to boast that when a student he once forced a smile from Professor Leslie, while engaged in the act of public prayer with the students. Skene had a fever, and was obliged for some time to wear a huge horse-hair wig. One morning, during prayers, he doffed his wig, and threw it into the middle of the floor, at the same time affecting to look round, that he might discover the wag who had treated him with such indignity. He then went quickly forward, took up the wig, and studiously placed it with the back part in front of his bald pow. The whole affair was conducted, on his part, with such comic gravity, as to force a smile from the saturnine Professor.

In the latter part of his life, Dr. Ogilvy had an attack of apoplexy, which tended to weaken his mental faculties. He ultimately repaired to London, where he died. The Print strongly resembles him. He was a very plain-looking man; and hence his *sobriquet* of “The Beauty of Holiness.” It was the fashion of his younger days to *powder* deeply: a friend as ugly as himself, chancing to meet him one day, compared him to the foul fiend looking out from under a wreath of snow—“*Gude e'en to you, brither Hornie!*” was the Doctor’s ready reply.

No. II.—DR. ALEXANDER GERARD. This eminent Professor first held the chair of Moral Philosophy, and afterwards that of Divinity, in Mari-schal College, from which chair he was translated in 1771 to the Professorship of Divinity in King’s College. His works on Taste and Genius are well known. He died in March 1795. He is represented as addressing his colleagues, and saying—“Had you not sold your patronages, first minister might have been annexed to my divine chair of verity and taste.” This alluded to what had taken place a considerable number of years before. As the revenue of the College was but very slender, the members were reduced to the necessity of having recourse, for the improvement of it, to such means as were within their reach. With this view, several schemes were proposed about the year 1751, and at last the sale of the “Superiorities and Church Patronages” was adopted, by which it is said that three thousand pounds sterling were added to the funds of the society. The purchase was made by the Earl of Fife, who thus acquired the right of patronage to about fifteen parishes. The quill in the Doctor’s cap probably refers to his diligence and success as an author.

No. III.—MR. RODERICK M’LEOD, Sub-Principal of King’s College. This gentleman was for many years a Professor in the University, and in 1764 was chosen Sub-Principal. Whilst holding this appointment, he became remarkable for his extraordinary exertions in procuring students to enter King’s College. His general acquaintance throughout the Highlands afforded him excellent opportunities of doing so; and he was not sparing of his endeavours. His tours through the north of Scotland were long proverbial in

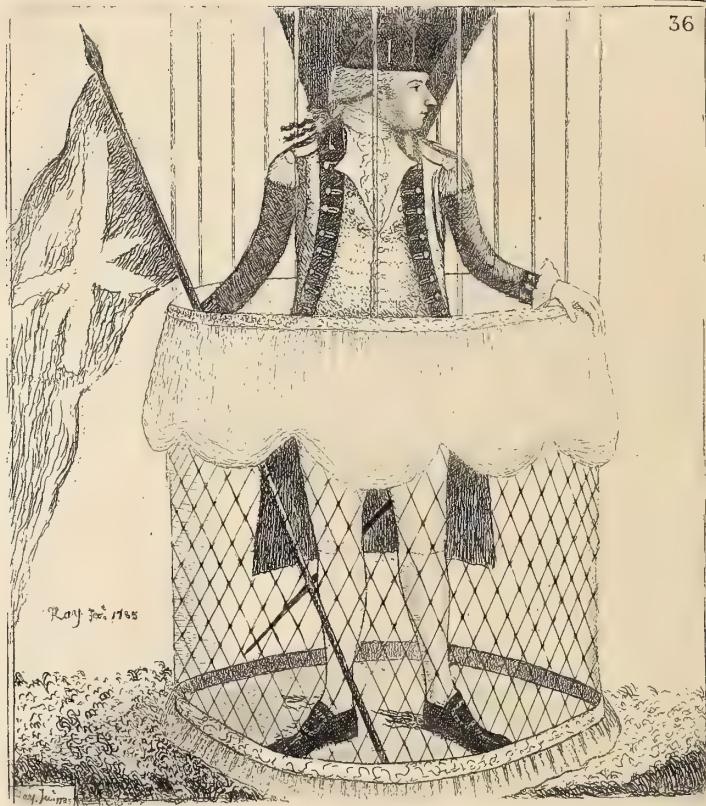
Aberdeen ; on which account he is attired in the costume of a Highlander, with a Lochaber axe. Upon the demise of Principal Chalmers, he was unanimously elected in his place, and held the office till the period of his death, upon the 11th of September 1815, in the eighty-eighth year of his age.

No. IV.—Said to be a capital likeness of MR. JOHN LESLIE, Professor of the Greek language in King's College, Aberdeen. He was accused—whether justly or unjustly we know not—of saying that he had rendered the Greek language vernacular from Aberdour, in Fife, to Aberdeen. He was an old schoolfellow of Dr. Robertson, the historian, through whose recommendation he obtained the Professorship. He died at Old Aberdeen, upon the 24th of May 1790, aged sixty-nine.

No. V.—DR. JOHN CHALMERS, who held the situation of Principal of King's College for nearly threescore years. He was a man of very considerable learning, but devoted himself chiefly to agricultural pursuits. He had so long held the Principalship, that the patience of some of the expectants of the office seemed wellnigh worn out. The Doctor was aware of this, and used to make it the occasion of many a sly joke. He had a farm at Sclattie, in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen, whither he used to retire during the summer months. On one of his journeys thither he fell from his horse, and received a severe contusion on the shoulder. The report of the accident soon spread, and it was confidently reported at Aberdeen that the Principal was lying at the point of death. Two of the Professors, each an aspirant to the expected vacancy, set out post-haste to enquire after their friend's health, and arrived simultaneously, although by different routes, at Sclattie. They were ushered into the silent and darkened chamber of the wounded man, and, on stealthy tip-toe, with countenances composed into fitting demureness, took their stations on opposite sides of what they believed (hoped ?) was his death-bed. A solemn silence of some minutes was at length abruptly broken by the Principal thrusting out his cap-enveloped head, and putting the perplexing question, “Weel, gentlemen, which of you is to be Principal ?” The Professors looked first at the Doctor, then at each other, and after a hearty laugh, in which the Principal's voice was “ready chorus,” sincerely congratulated him on his escape. The Doctor, however, survived them both. He died at Sclattie upon the 7th May 1800.

No. VI.—MR. THOMAS GORDON, commonly called “Humorist Gordon.” He was Professor of Philosophy for a long period of years. He possessed vast and varied learning—was a scholar, a mathematician, an antiquarian, and a divine. He was uncle to the late talented Dr. Eden Scott Gordon, and was one of a literary club which used to hold their weekly meeting in an Inn in Old Aberdeen. He was a man of a jovial turn, fond of anecdote, and a great humorist. On one occasion he had given dire offence to Professor Leslie, who





in consequence sent the humorist a challenge : Gordon accepted, but claimed the privilege of choosing the weapons. He chose any one of the Greek tragedians, and pledged himself to foil Leslie at his own weapons, adding, " Gif ye dinna beat me I'll tak the tawse to your hurdies !" The encounter never took place. Gordon was the chief conductor of the comparative trial for the Professorship of Mathematics in Marischal College when Playfair, Hamilton, and Traill, were candidates, the latter being successful. He died on the 11th August 1797, at the advanced age of eighty-three.

No. VII.—DR. WILLIAM THOM, of Craigston, advocate, and Professor of Civil Law in King's College, Aberdeen, who died on the 9th April 1795. He was much enraged at the alienation of the patronages, and did not hesitate to declare that the Earl of Fife, by giving so little for them, had most justly rewarded their rapacity.

No. VIII.—DR. WILLIAM CHALMERS, Professor of Medicine. Of these last two individuals little is known, save that, like the patriarchs, they lived and died. They were both worthy men, and far better than many who have been more extensively and permanently known and extolled.

#### No. XXXVI.

#### VINCENT LUNARDI,

IN HIS BASKET, READY TO ASCEND.

THIS celebrated aeronaut visited Scotland in the month of September 1785. His first ascent took place at Edinburgh, on the 5th of October following, from Heriot's Hospital Green. The Print, which is allowed to be an excellent likeness of Lunardi, represents him as he appeared ready to ascend. His dress was of scarlet, with blue facings.

Several aerial attempts had been made at Edinburgh, with partial success, in 1784, by Mr. Tytler, but the previous fame of Lunardi created an unparalleled excitement in Scotland, so that an immense concourse of people of all classes were assembled to witness what had hitherto been deemed almost an impossibility. " In the Green of Heriot's Hospital," it is said, " the company was numerous and genteel, and the concourse of people on the different eminences were immense. It is calculated that above 80,000 spectators assembled on this occasion, which put a stop to almost all business for a great part of the day, and most of the shops were shut. At twelve o'clock a flag was displayed from the Castle, and a gun (which had been brought from Leith Fort) was fired from the Green when the process of filling the balloon began. At half-past two it was completely inflated." All the arrangements being completed, Mr. Lunardi

gave the signal at ten minutes to three, when the balloon ascended in a S.S.E. direction, "in the most grand and magnificent manner," amid the acclamations of the people. He passed over the city at a great height, waving his flag as he proceeded. According to Lunardi's own account, "the balloon, after rising, took a north-east direction, and, near to the Island of Inchkeith, came down almost to the sea; he then threw out some ballast, and the balloon rose higher than before. A current of wind carried him east to North Berwick; a different current then changed his course, and brought him over between Leven and Largo. After this, a S.S.W. breeze brought him to the place where he descended," which was on the estate of the Hon. John Hope, a mile east from Ceres. "When the balloon was at its highest elevation (about three miles) the barometer stood at eighteen inches five-tenths. Mr. Lunardi at this time felt no difficulty in respiration. He passed through several clouds of snow, and lost sight at times both of sea and land. His excursion took about an hour and a half; and it would appear he passed over upwards of forty miles of sea, and about ten of land." On his descending, Mr. Lunardi was first welcomed by Mr. Robert Christie, and next by the Rev. Robert Arnot, who came running, with a crowd of people after him. He was accompanied to Ceres by a body of gentlemen who soon collected, where he was "received by the acclamations of a prodigious multitude, his flag being carried in procession before him, and the church-bell ringing in honour of such a visitant." At the manse of Ceres he drank a few glasses of wine, and both there and at the house of Mr. Melville he received the compliments of a great many ladies and gentlemen. The same evening he started for Cupar, having been invited by the authorities, where the most enthusiastic reception awaited him. After having been next day entertained at dinner, and presented with the freedom of the burgh, he proceeded to St. Andrews, to which place he had been invited by the Club of Gentlemen Golfers, where he was made a citizen, and had, by diploma, the honour of "Knight of the Beggar's Benison" conferred upon him.

Such is a brief account of Lunardi's first aerial trip in Scotland. Brilliant it certainly was, and it is as unquestionable, that although half a century has since elapsed, it has not been surpassed.<sup>1</sup> Many anecdotes are told of the surprise and terror of the peasantry on first beholding the balloon. Some reapers in a field near to Ceres were dreadfully alarmed—judging from so uncommon an appearance, and the sound of Lunardi's trumpet, that the end of all things was at hand. Certain it is, however, that the Rev. Mr. Arnot, who was previously aware of Lunardi's ascent, required considerable persuasion to convince the people that they might approach the object of their terror without fear of supernatural injury.

Mr. Lunardi's next adventure took place at Kelso on the 22d of October. In this flight he did not ascend above a mile, keeping constantly in view of the

<sup>1</sup> An eye-witness informs us "that there has been no exhibition nearly so grand as Lunardi's first ascent. All the other ascents since his time have been dosing, sluggish-looking exhibitions, whereas Lunardi went off in the grandest style, precisely resembling a sky-rocket."

earth. After the lapse of nearly an hour and a half, he anchored in Doddington Moor, when some people getting hold of the ropes, he was carried to Barmoor in Northumberland, where he descended. The aeronaut had been invited to Kelso by the gentlemen of the Caledonian Hunt. While here he was much delighted with the races, and in one of his letters alludes to a match between the Duke of Hamilton and Robert Baird, Esq., who rode their own horses ; he likens the contest to the ancient Olympic games. "He dined on Saturday with Sir James Douglas of Springwoodpark, and supped with the gentlemen of the Caledonian Hunt. On Sunday he was entertained by Sir James Pringle,<sup>1</sup> at Stitchel ; on Monday by Lord Home at Hirsel, and same evening by the ancient Lodge of Freemasons." He is stated also to have taken "much notice of the two Miss Halls of Thornton, Miss Wilkie of Doddington, and Miss Car of Newcastle," who no doubt were highly gratified by his condescension !!

Glasgow was next visited by the aeronaut, where he ascended from St. Andrew Square on the 23d of November. A crowd of nearly 100,000 persons had assembled to witness his flight. The balloon took a north-east direction for about 25 miles ; the wind then changing, he was carried south-east until he descended near Alemoor, in Selkirkshire, having passed over a distance of 125 miles in two hours. Lunardi thus describes his descent : "When I came in sight of the heathy hills I heard a voice call, 'Lunardi, come down !' quite plain, and I knew not who it was. I saw at a distance sheep feeding, but could not see a human being. I called aloud several times through the hill, and after a minute, or seventy seconds, I could hear the echo of my words returned as loud as they were pronounced, but I never had repeated 'Lunardi, come down,' though I heard these words several times repeated, on which I answered through the trumpet, 'Hallo, hallo,' with a great voice. I heard the words 'Lunardi, hallo,' repeated, and being now quite free from interruption of clouds, I could see distinctly some people on horseback ; at last I hastened my descent between two hills, where I came down as light as a feather. Two trembling shepherds came to me, an old man and a boy, whom I encouraged by calling to them, 'My dear friends, come hither.' They crossed the water and came up to me." At this time Mr. and Mrs. Chisholm of Stirches happened to be returning on horseback from a visit, who very kindly received Mr. Lunardi, at whose suggestion Mrs. Chisholm boldly took possession of the car, resigning her horse to the aeronaut, and while some shepherds held on by the ropes, the party thus proceeded to a distance of nearly three miles. Lunardi spent the night at Stirches, and dined next day with the magistrates of Hawick, who presented him with the freedom of the town.

Mr. Lunardi made a second ascent from Glasgow on the 5th of December, and, as on the former occasion, he was witnessed by a vast concourse of people. His ascent was very majestic ; but he did not proceed to a great distance, hav-

<sup>1</sup> Sir James succeeded his uncle, Sir John Pringle, F.R.S., the distinguished physician and cultivator of science, who accompanied the Duke of Cumberland to Scotland, and remained with the army after the battle of Culloden till its return to England in August 1746.

ing alighted at Campsie, about twelve miles distant, where he was received by the Rev. Mr. Lapsley, minister of that place, who transmitted an account of his descent to one of the Glasgow journals.

The fifth ascent of Lunardi in Scotland, and the second at Edinburgh, again occurred at Heriot's Hospital Green. He made offer of the profits of this second exhibition for the benefit of the Charity Workhouse, but the directors politely declined accepting his offer, on the ground that, however desirous they might be to promote the interest of the institution, they were unwilling that any one should *risk his life* for its benefit. On Tuesday the 20th December, Lunardi took his flight a few minutes before one o'clock. On this occasion he was dressed in the uniform of the Scots Archers, having been previously admitted an honorary member of that body, as well as having had the freedom of Edinburgh conferred upon him. He was also provided with a cork jacket, as on the former occasion furnished by Dr. Rae, together with other precautionary means of safety, in case of an immersion in the German Ocean.<sup>1</sup> These, as it happened, were not without their use. The balloon ascended with great rapidity, taking a more easterly direction than formerly, and was seen, by means of a telescope, about two o'clock, in rather a perilous situation, about two miles north-east of Gullanness. Not far from this place, it appears the balloon had descended so low as to immerse the car in the water, when some fishermen observing the occurrence, immediately proceeded to his rescue. Owing, however, to the rapidity with which the car was dragged, nearly three quarters of an hour elapsed before they were able to render any assistance; and when they came up, Lunardi was breast deep in the water, and benumbed with cold. They were then five or six miles from land. He would have cut away the balloon, but seeing the fishermen approaching, he was unwilling to lose it by doing so. On leaving the car for the boat, however, the balloon, being thus lightened, rose with great force, carrying every appendage with it in its flight. Mr. Lunardi was then taken to Mr. Nisbet's of Dirleton, where he spent the evening. In a letter dated that night to the magistrates of Edinburgh, he speaks lightly of his danger, expresses regret at losing the balloon, but was hopeful that the people would be satisfied with his conduct. Fortunately the balloon was picked up next day by the May cutter, about twelve miles off Anstruther.

Lunardi then returned to England, exhibiting his aerial ingenuity in the provincial towns (having been in London some time previous to his arrival in Scotland). A very unfortunate occurrence took place on his ascending at Newcastle: —A Mr. Heron having hold of one of the ropes, inadvertently twisted it round his arm, and not being able to disentangle himself in time, he was lifted up to a considerable height, when the rope giving way, he fell, and was killed on the spot. Mr. Heron was on the eve of marriage, and at the time the accident occurred the lady of his affections was by his side.

<sup>1</sup> On this occasion, says our informant, Lunardi was positively assured, from the direction of the wind, that he would be driven into the German Ocean. "Me don't mind that—somebody will *pick me up*." Fortunately for him somebody did *pick* him up.

Mr. Lunardi again visited Edinburgh the year following (1786), and ascended the third time from Heriot's Hospital Green, on the 31st of July. On this occasion a lady (Mrs. Lamash, an actress) was to have accompanied him, and had actually taken her seat in the car; but the balloon being unable to ascend with both, Lunardi ascended alone. In consequence of little wind, he came down about two miles distant. On his return to the city in the evening, he was carried through the streets in his car by the populace, and received other demonstrations of admiration.

Very little is known of Mr. Lunardi's personal history, save that he was a native of Italy, and some time Secretary to the then late Neapolitan ambassador. In 1786, he published an account of his aerial voyages in Scotland, which he dedicated to the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch. This small volume, although proving him to be a man of education, and some talent as a writer, throws very little light upon his history. It consists of a series of letters addressed to his guardian, "Chevalier Gerardo Compagni." These letters were evidently written under the impulse of the moment, and afford a connected detail of his progress in Scotland. They are chiefly interesting at this distance of time, as showing the feelings and motives of one, who, whether his "labours were misdirected" or not, obtained an extraordinary degree of notoriety. In short, the volume is amusing in this particular, and adds another proof to the many, that few, very few, seek the advancement of society, or of the sciences, for humanity's sake alone. Fame is the grand stimulus. A portrait of the author is prefixed, which corresponds extremely well with Mr. Kay's sketches of him. Lunardi must have been at that time a very young man.

The young adventurer, on his arrival in the Scottish capital, is much pleased with its ancient and romantic appearance. He expresses himself with great animation on all he sees around him, and apparently with great sincerity. As a specimen of the man and his opinions, we are induced to make one or two extracts. In the first letter, after describing his arrival, he says:—

"I have apartments in Walker's Hotel, Prince's Street, from whence I behold innumerable elegant buildings, and my ears are saluted with the sounds of industry from many others similarly arising. Hail to the voice of labour! It vibrates more forcibly on the chords of my heart than the most harmonious notes of music, and gives birth to sensations that I would not exchange for all the boasted pleasures of luxury and dissipation."

These sentiments would have done credit to one less gay and youthful than Lunardi. In another letter he says, "I am now happy in the acquaintance of the Hon. Henry Erskine, Sir William Forbes, and Major Fraser." True to his clime, however, the letters of Lunardi betray in him all the volatility and passion ascribed to his countrymen. At one moment he is in ecstasy, the other in despair. He had chosen George Square for his first display, and had contracted with Isaac Braidwood of the Luckenbooths, who had actually begun to enclose the area, when an order from the Magistrates stopped farther proceedings. The

vexation and despair of the aeronaut at this manifestation of hostility is indescribable. He writes :—"I understand a *lady* has been the underhand prompter ! Hold, I beg pardon of the fair sex ; they are my best friends, and I prize their approbation beyond the highest honour fame can give ! And shall a female Machiavel of *fifty* be ranked with them ? Forbid it, politeness—forbid it, humanity—forbid it, truth !"

He subsequently obtained the use of Heriot's Hospital Green, advertised his ascent, but another disappointment occurred, and another paroxysm ensued. The waggoner from Liverpool had deceived him as to the time of his arrival—his apparatus for filling the balloon would not be forwarded till after the day advertised. "What shall I do ?" he writes to his guardian ; "Numbers of people will come from Aberdeen and Glasgow, and they must be disappointed ! *Male-dictus homo quis confidit in homine !* Oh ! what a frame of mind I am in !" And then follows the confession—"Fame and glory, ye objects of my pursuits, ye destroy my peace of mind, yet are ye still dear to me."

To help him out of this dilemma, one Mr. Chalmers, a plumber, engaged to make him two vats or cisterns, in sufficient time for his purposes, but when the day appointed arrived, Chalmers had not fulfilled his promise, coolly saying he could not get them done. Such repeated disappointments were enough to make the most "phlegmatic mortal" mad. "My patience forsook me," says Lunardi ; "I loaded him with invectives, but they were all thrown away upon the phlegmatic mortal ; he quietly maintained his *sang froid*."

Mr. Erskine having directed the aeronaut to a Mr. Selby, another plumber, who quickly set to work upon the vats, our hero is again transported from the depths of despair to happiness. "I am now in a happy frame of mind," he writes, "for conversing with the ladies, two hundred of whom have called this morning,"—(at the Parliament House, where the balloon was exhibiting).

For the honour of the "Land of Cakes," we cannot refrain from quoting the following eulogium on our countrywomen, at the close of last century :—

"Happy mortal ! you exclaim ; and well you might, could you form any idea of the SCOTTISH BEAUTIES ! Their height, in general, approaches to what I would call the majestic, adorned with easy elegance ; their figures are such as Grecian artists might have been proud to copy. But to describe their faces. The pencil of Titian, or Michael Angelo, could scarce have done them justice ! No perfume shop supplies the beautiful colour that glows on their cheeks and lips : it is the pure painting of health, and pictures forth minds as pure. Nature has made them lovely, and they have not suffered art to spoil her works. I have endeavoured to give you some idea of their personal charms, but their mental ones are far more striking. Grace without affectation—frankness without levity—good humour without folly—and dignity without pride—are the distinguishing characteristics."

This is no doubt the language of poetic feeling ; but however enthusiastic an admirer of the fair sex the young Italian may have been, he shows himself not



BETTORE MARRIAGE



AFTER MARRIAGE

K. 1789

37

incapable of appreciating the duties of social sober life. In another letter he says :—

“The people of distinction in Scotland are blest with elegance and happiness, and know not that insatiable ambition, which, while it swallows up every other comfort and endearment of life, never fails to prove the bane of human bliss ; their enjoyments are chiefly those of the domestic kind—a virtuous and lovely wife—the education and company of their children.” Truly may we add, in the language of Burns—

“From scenes like these old Scotia’s grandeur springs.”

Judging of Lunardi from his letters while in Scotland, he seems to have been a youth of a warm temperament—amiable in his feelings—of a poetical vein ; but extremely vain and ambitious ; and, like many of his countrymen, volatile and irritable. Young and handsome, he was not only an admirer of the ladies, but was in turn himself admired. The marked attention on the part of the fair sex seemed too powerful for the youthful aeronaut’s good sense—his conceit became intolerable. Once when in company, being called on for a toast, he gave—“Lunardi, whom the ladies love.” This instance of bad-taste and audacious conceit might have been the burst of an unguarded moment, but it had the effect of disgusting all who heard him.

In compliment to the aerial stranger, the Scottish ladies wore what they called “Lunardi bonnets,” of a peculiar construction, and which for some time were universally fashionable. They were made of gauze or thin muslin, extended on wire, the upper part representing the balloon. Burns in his “Address to a Louse,” alludes to this head-dress in the following words :—

“I wadna been surprised to spy  
You on an auld wife’s flanin’ toy ;  
Or aiblins some bit duddy boy—  
On’s wyliecoat ;  
But Miss’s fine *Lunardi!* fie,  
How daur ye do’t ?”

Lunardi died of a decline, in the convent of Barbadinus, at Lisbon, on the 31st of January 1806.

#### No. XXXVII.

#### M A R R I A G E.

By reversing this Print, the difference between “Before and After” will be readily observed, as in too many cases, to have been faithfully delineated by Kay. This Print having found its way into Germany, was copied on the lids of snuff-boxes, and other fancy articles manufactured there.

## No. XXXVIII.

## A GROUP OF AERONAUTS.

IN this group the principal figure is LUNARDI, of whom we have previously given some account. The next, to the left, is MR. JAMES TYTLER, chemist, and well known in Edinburgh as a literary character of some eminence. He was born at the manse of Fearn, of which place his father was minister. James received an excellent provincial education ; and afterwards, with the proceeds of a voyage or two to Greenland, in the capacity of medical assistant, he removed to Edinburgh to complete his knowledge of medicine, where he made rapid progress not only in his professional acquirements, but in almost every department of literature.

At an early period he became enamoured of a sister of Mr. Young, Writer to the Signet, whom he married. From this event may perhaps be dated the laborious and poverty-stricken career of Tytler. His means, at the very outset, were unequal to the task of providing for his matrimonial engagements, and from one failure to another he seems to have descended, until reduced to the verge of indigence.

He first attempted to establish himself as a surgeon in Edinburgh ; and then removed to Newcastle, where he commenced a laboratory, but without success. In the course of a year or two he returned to Leith, where he opened a shop for the sale of chemical preparations ; and here again his evil destiny prevailed. It is possible his literary bias might have operated as a drag upon his exertions. These repeated failures seemed to have destroyed his domestic happiness. His wife, after presenting him with several children, left him to manage them as best he could, and resided with her friends, some time in Edinburgh, and afterwards in the Orkneys.

Previous to this domestic occurrence, Tytler had abandoned all his former religious connexions, and even opinions ; and now finding himself thrown upon his literary resources, he announced a work entitled, "Essays on the most important subjects of Natural and Revealed Religion." Unable to find a book-seller or printer willing to undertake the publication of his Essays, Tytler's genius and indefatigable spirit were called forth in an extraordinary manner. Having constructed a printing-press upon a principle different from those in use,<sup>1</sup> and having procured some old materials, he set about arranging the types of his Essays with his own hands, and without previously having written down his thoughts upon paper. Mr. Kay states in his MS., that twenty-three

<sup>1</sup> Supposed to have been the origin of those afterwards manufactured by the ingenious John Ruthven.—*Chambers's Biography*.



38 Fowls of a Feather Flock together.



numbers of the Essays were issued in this manner, and were only interrupted in consequence of other engagements entered into by the author.

Mr. Tytler was known by his previous literary contributions, but his fame was increased by the publication of his Essays, which were admired not only for the clearness of their reasoning, but for the extraordinary manner of their production.

The attention of the booksellers being thus directed towards him, he was engaged in 1776 as a contributor, or rather as editor of the second edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, a work which, under his management, was enlarged from three to eight volumes quarto. Subsequently, he was much employed by the booksellers in compilations and abridgments; the most important of which was the *Edinburgh Geographical Grammar*. Besides conducting various periodicals, he published a translation of the four Eclogues of Virgil into English verse; and from his own press, in a similar manner to his Essays, issued the first volume of a general *History of all Nations*.

At the commencement of the “balloon mania,” Tytler’s genius took a new flight. In 1784, he issued proposals to ascend in a fire-balloon, when a considerable sum was immediately subscribed to enable him to proceed with the experiment. He accordingly constructed a balloon of about forty feet in height, and thirty in diameter, with stove and other apparatus; but although he had contemplated ascending during the week of the races (early in August), it was not till the 27th of that month that he succeeded in making a decisive attempt. On this occasion he rose to the height of three hundred and fifty feet. The scene of the experiment was at Comely Gardens, near the King’s Park. Although he succeeded in demonstrating the principle of a fire-balloon, all his attempts were short of success. When Lunardi visited Scotland in 1785, he was of course much interested in the aeronaut’s success, and hence Mr. Kay has, with much propriety, associated him with the “fowls of a feather.” In the volume published by Lunardi in London (which we have elsewhere noticed), giving an account of his Scottish aerial voyages, we find a poetical address to that gentleman by Mr. Tytler, commencing:—

“Ethereal traveller! welcome from the skies—  
Welcome to earth to feast our longing eyes.”

This effusion was no doubt in compliment to the successful aeronaut; but as Tytler, in a long note, is careful to explain the principle of his “fire-balloon,” and the causes of failure, it is to be presumed that the author was influenced by a desire to set himself right in the opinion of Lunardi and the public. In this note Tytler attributes his ill success, in the first instance, to the want of proper shelter, and the smallness of the stove, which could not supply enough of heat. In the second, his friends were alarmed at the idea of “dragging into air” a cumbrous iron apparatus, and therefore, although Tytler gave directions to have the stove enlarged, they deceived him by actually making it less. By this time the public were highly dissatisfied, and he states that he was vilified in the

newspapers—denounced as a coward and a scoundrel—and pointed to as one deserving magisterial surveillance. “I bore it all,” says poor Tytler, “with patience, well knowing that one successful trial would speedily change the public opinion.” Accordingly, on the third occasion, he did not trust to his friends; he had the stove enlarged nearly a foot, and with great hopes of success proceeded to the trial. So early as five o’clock in the morning the balloon was inflated, and when he took his seat it rose with much force; but having come in contact with a tree, the stove was broken in pieces, while the adventurer himself narrowly escaped injury. This disaster put an end to the speculation, although not to the spirit of the projector, who remained firmly convinced of the practicability of his invention.

Tytler’s first wife being dead, he married, in 1779, a sister of Mr. John Cairns, flesher in Edinburgh, by which union he had one daughter. On the death of his second wife in 1782, he was wedded, a third time, to Miss Aikenhead in December following, by whom, says Mr. Kay’s MS., “he has two daughters (twins) so remarkably like each other, though now four years of age, that they can hardly be distinguished from each other, even by their parents, who are often obliged to ask their name, individually, at the infants themselves.” Kay also mentions, and while he does so, admits his own belief in the practicability of the invention, that he (Tytler) “is at present engaged in the construction of a machine, which, if he completes it according to his expectations, will in all probability make his fortune.” This machine was no less than “the *perpetuum mobile*, or an instrument which, when once set agoing, will continue in motion for ever!”

Kay further adds—“He has just completed a chemical discovery of a certain water for bleaching linen, which performs the operation in a few hours, without hurting the cloth.” This was a practical and beneficial discovery; but, like the other labours of Tytler, however much others may have reaped the benefit, it afforded very little to himself.

To add to, or rather to crown, the misfortunes of the unlucky son of genius, he espoused the cause of the “Friends of the People,” in 1792, and having published a small pamphlet of a seditious nature, was obliged to abscond. He went to Ireland, where he finished a work previously undertaken, called “A System of Surgery,” in three volumes. Immediately afterwards he removed to the United States, where he resumed his literary labours, but died in a few years after, while conducting a newspaper at Salem. His family were never able to rejoin him.<sup>1</sup>

The third, in the background on the left, represented, when first executed,

<sup>1</sup> In a life of Tytler, Edinburgh, 1805, 12mo, it is said that he had “a brother a medical gentleman of a respectable character on the Staff of Great Britain, well known to the literary by his translation of Callimachus, highly commended by the great Quintilian;” a strange fact, certainly, and one which, however creditable to the Roman’s prophetic knowledge, says very little for his critical acumen, for more wretched stuff can hardly be figured. Tytler’s anonymous biographer further informs his reader—“He has also a daughter in Edinburgh, in the capacity of a servant-maid, whose conduct, I have reason to believe, is such as to be no disgrace to her respectable connexions.”

an ingenious artist, but who, from a feeling of modesty, prevailed on the limner to alter it.

The fourth, or extreme figure on the left, is MR. JOHN MITCHELL, of the firm of Mitchell and White, hardware-merchants, at that time residing in North Bridge Street. He was a respectable trader, and a great admirer of balloons.

The fifth, in the background on the right, is a capital likeness of MR. JAMES NEILSON, writer and clerk to the Rev. Sir Henry Moncreiff Wellwood, Bart., and his predecessors, Mr. Stewart and Dr. Webster, as collectors of the Ministers' Widows' Fund. He lived in Turk's Close, a little to the west of the Luckenbooths, and died a bachelor, in March 1797. He was a particular friend to Lunardi. He belonged, at a former period, to the first volunteer regiment raised in Great Britain, viz. the Edinburgh Defensive Band.

The sixth is a striking likeness of JOHN SPOTTISWOOD, Esq., one of the magistrates of Edinburgh, a most respectable gentleman. He was at one time a dealer in Carron-wares in the Grassmarket, and afterwards in Adam Square (South Bridge). Kay has in his MS. preserved the following anecdote relative to him:—This Print had hardly appeared when the Bailie came up to the limner, and challenged him for publishing such a scandalous print, saying he ought to be horsewhipped, and adding that he ought rather to have paid a compliment to Lunardi, than to have classed him with Lord North the caddy. “I don’t know,” said Kay, “but Lord North is as good a man as he ; but I should like to see the man who would horsewhip me.”—“It is one of the horriblest things on earth,” replied the Bailie, “to put me on a level with a caddy.”—“Oh! Bailie, are *you* there too?” exclaimed Kay, by way of interrogation. “Yes, sir,” returned the magistrate, “you know I am there ; I have a daughter only five years old, who points me out at first sight.”—“She must be a smart girl,” said the limner ; “but if you please, Bailie, I shall do another print of you by yourself.”—“I’d see you hanged first,” answered our hero. “Oh! Bailie, Bailie!” said Kay, “I hope you are not angry.”—“Angry ! I’m shocking angry !” returned the provoked magistrate, stamping the ground with his foot, to the no small amusement of the spectators who happened to be looking at the prints in Kay’s window, in the Parliament Square, at the time.

The Seventh, or extreme figure on the right, is MYLES M’PHAIL, better known by the name of LORD NORTH, the Caddy. This *sobriquet* was bestowed in consequence of his personal resemblance to Lord North, afterwards Earl of Guildford. M’Phail, besides his occupation as a caddy, kept a tavern in the High Street, and was much esteemed for his activity ; he was also officer of the Caledonian Hunt. On the occasion of Lunardi’s ascent from the Green of Heriot’s Hospital, Lord North collected the money.

## No. XXXIX.

## THE RIGHT HONOURABLE COLONEL LENNOX.

THIS nobleman was born in Scotland in 1764, and succeeded to the Dukedom of Richmond and Lennox in 1806. He is best known, however, as "Colonel Lennox," having incurred considerable notoriety as a duellist, by challenging and fighting with a prince of the blood-royal. At the time this affair of honour took place, Lennox was Captain of a company in the Coldstream Guards, of which regiment the late Duke of York was Colonel. The cause of quarrel originated on the part of the Duke, who reported, that at the club in D'Aubigney's, Colonel Lennox had submitted to certain expressions unworthy of a gentleman. On learning this the Colonel despatched a letter to the Duke, stating, that as neither he nor any member of the club recollects hearing such words addressed to him, he thought his Highness "ought to contradict the report as publicly as he had asserted it." The Duke replied that the words were spoken in his own presence, and therefore he could not be subject to mistake: he was only bound to maintain his own opinion that they ought to have been resented by a gentleman. The immediate consequence was a message to his Royal Highness desiring satisfaction. A meeting accordingly took place on Wimbledon Common on the 26th May 1789, Lord Rawdon acting as second to the Duke of York, and the Earl of Winchilsea (one of the Lords of the Bed-Chamber to the King), as second to Colonel Lennox. Of this transaction these gentlemen published the following account:—

"The ground was measured at twelve paces, and both parties were to fire upon a signal agreed upon. The signal being given, Colonel Lennox fired, and the ball grazed his Royal Highness's curl. The Duke of York did not fire. Lord Rawdon then interfered and said, 'that he thought enough had been done.' Colonel Lennox observed 'that his Royal Highness had not fired.' Lord Rawdon said, 'It was not the Duke's intention to fire—his Royal Highness had come out upon Colonel Lennox's desire to give him satisfaction, and had no animosity against him.' Colonel Lennox pressed that the Duke of York should fire, which was declined upon a repetition of the reason. Lord Winchilsea then went up to the Duke of York, and expressed his hope that his Royal Highness could have no objection to say he considered Colonel Lennox as a man of honour and courage? His Royal Highness replied that he should say nothing; he had come out to give Colonel Lennox satisfaction, and did not mean to fire at him; if Colonel Lennox was not satisfied he might fire again. Colonel Lennox said he could not possibly fire again at the Duke, as his Royal Highness did not mean to fire at him. On this both parties left the ground.





The seconds think it proper to add, that both parties behaved with the utmost coolness and intrepidity.

"RAWDON.

"WINCHILSEA.

"Tuesday evening, May 26th."

It is reported that her Majesty the Queen, who might have been supposed inclined to resent an attempt upon the life of her son, so far from appearing to do so, politely received the Colonel shortly afterwards at the Spanish ambassador's gala.

On the 28th Colonel Lennox found it necessary to solicit his Royal Highness, as Colonel of the Coldstream Guards, to permit a call of the officers to consider of "certain propositions touching his conduct and situation," which the Duke at once agreed to. The opinion of this military convention was as follows:—"It is the opinion of his Majesty's Coldstream Regiment of Guards, that Colonel Lennox, subsequent to the 15th instant, has behaved with *courage*, but from the peculiarity of the circumstances, not with *judgment*."

In consequence of this ambiguous decision, the Colonel and his friends deemed it proper for him to leave the Guards. He, accordingly, on the 16th of June, exchanged with Lord Strathaven of the 35th, which regiment was then stationed in Edinburgh Castle; previous to joining, however, Colonel Lennox had occasion to fight another duel, a pamphlet having been published by one Theophilus Swift, Esq., throwing reflections on the character of the Colonel. The latter immediately called on Mr. Swift; a meeting was the consequence, on the morning of the 3d July, in a field near to the Uxbridge road—Mr. Swift attended by Sir William Brown, and Colonel Lennox by Colonel Phipps. The principals took their stations at the distance of ten paces, when Lennox, being the injured party, was allowed to fire first. The ball took effect in the body of Mr. Swift,<sup>1</sup> whose pistol went off without injury. Mr. Swift soon recovered from the effects of the wound.

Colonel Lennox at length arrived in Edinburgh on the 21st of the month. In the evening the Castle was illuminated in honour of his joining the regiment, on which occasion he gave "an excellent entertainment to the officers, and ten guineas to the privates, to drink his health," the officers also giving ten guineas for the same purpose. Shortly after, he visited Gordon Castle, where he was married to Lady Charlotte, eldest daughter of the Duke of Gordon, and niece to the celebrated Lady Wallace.

About this time the Incorporation of Goldsmiths in Edinburgh made the Colonel an honorary member of their body, and presented him with the free-

<sup>1</sup> This gentleman's father was nearly related to the celebrated Dean Swift, a life of whom he published. After the Colonel's succession to the Dukedom, and his appointment to the Lieutenancy of Ireland, in 1807, it occurred that Mr. Swift was one of the party at a ball given at Dublin Castle. On being presented to the royal depute, Mr. Swift humorously remarked, "This is a different ball from that your Highness favoured me with the last time we met."

dom in a silver snuff-box. In October of the same year, he had the freedom of the city conferred upon him by the magistrates, at the same time with the Right Honourable the Earl of Hopetoun, and two brothers of that nobleman, John and Alexander Hope.

During the Colonel's stay in Edinburgh, Mr. Kay mentions that he was much beloved by all who knew him. He adds, "The Colonel is also a great player at cricket, a game of which he was very fond, and at which he used to amuse himself with the common soldiers—a degree of condescension, which, together with the drink-money he gave them on such occasions, made them all very fond of him."

Colonel Lennox served afterwards in the Leeward Islands, and arrived in St. Domingo from Martinique with eight flank companies of foot, on the 8th June 1794, just at the breaking out of that pestilential disease, the yellow fever, to which forty officers and six hundred rank and file fell victims in two months.

In 1795 he was appointed aid-de-camp to the King, with the rank of Colonel in the Army, and had the rank of Major-General conferred upon him in 1798. In 1800 he was made Colonel-Commandant of the 35th foot, and farther promoted to be Colonel of the same regiment in May 1803. He attained the rank of Lieutenant-General in 1805.

At the general election in 1790, he was returned Member of Parliament for the County of Sussex; at the next election, six years afterwards, he was re-chosen, and again in 1802 and 1806, immediately after which, on the death of his uncle, he succeeded to the Dukedom of Richmond and Lennox. On the first of April 1807, his grace was sworn a Privy Councillor, and appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. He was afterwards made Governor of Canada, where he died in 1819, and was succeeded in his titles by his son Charles,—the second of a family of fourteen, the eldest being a daughter.

#### No. XL.

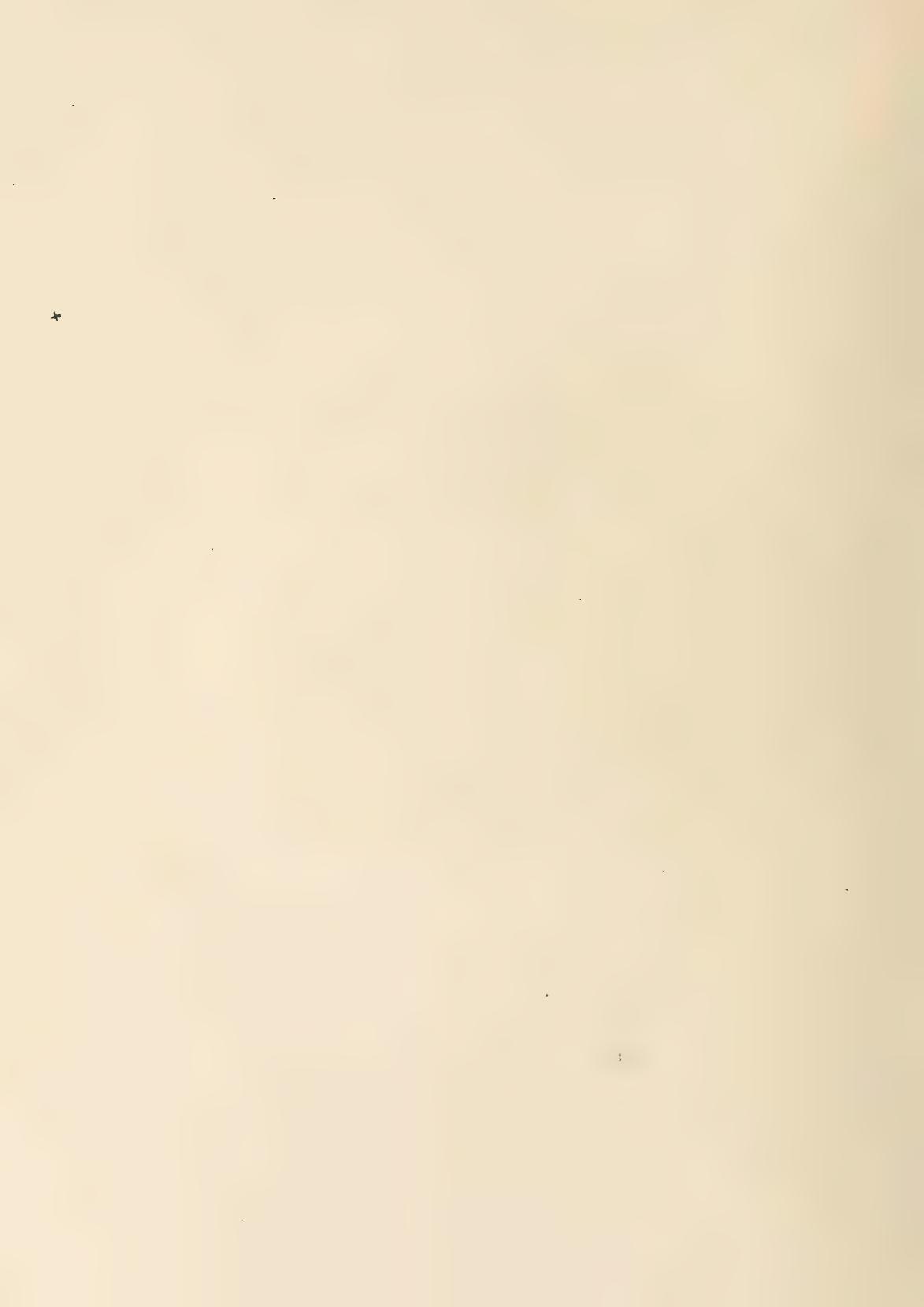
#### COLONEL HUNTER.

THIS gentleman was much above the ordinary height, and exceedingly corpulent. He was brother of Sir James Hunter Blair, Baronet. It is said that when the Colonel accompanied his regiment to the West Indies—a climate proverbially fatal to Europeans—upon his arrival there, while superintending the disembarkation of the regimental stores, he was much annoyed by a person walking round and round him, and staring uncommonly at him. Surprised at this singular surveillance, the Colonel asked what he wanted, when the fellow very *gravely* replied, "I am just wondering, sir, if I have a coffin large enough for you." This hint was not lost; the Colonel took the earliest opportunity of disappointing the speculative undertaker, by returning to his native country.



JK.F. 784

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## No. XLI.

## THE REV. WILLIAM ROBERTSON, D.D.,

AUTHOR OF THE "HISTORY OF SCOTLAND," AND "CHARLES V."

THIS eminent divine resided within the old College, at the south gate, nearly on the spot where the centre of the library now is. He was born in the year 1721, in the manse of Borthwick, of which parish his father, also called William, was then minister, but who was afterwards presented to the Old Greyfriars' Church, Edinburgh. His mother was Eleanor, daughter of David Pitcairn, Esq. of Dreghorn; by the father's side he was descended from the Robertsons of Gladney in Fife, a branch of the ancient house of Strowan. Dr. Robertson received the first rudiments of his education at Dalkeith, under Mr. Leslie; and, in 1733, when his father removed to Edinburgh, he commenced his course of academical study, which he completed at the University of Edinburgh in 1741. In the same year he was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Dalkeith; and in 1743 was, by the Earl of Hopetoun, presented to the living of Gladsmuir in East Lothian. Soon after this, his father and mother died within a few hours of each other, when six sisters,<sup>1</sup> and a younger brother,<sup>2</sup> were left almost wholly dependent on him. He immediately took them home to his humble residence at Gladsmuir, where his stipend amounted to little more than £60 a year, and devoted his leisure hours to the superintendence of their education. After seeing them all respectably settled in the world, he married, in 1751, his cousin Mary, daughter of the Rev. Mr. Nisbet, one of the ministers of Edinburgh.

In the Rebellion of 1745, when Edinburgh was threatened by the Highlanders, he hastened into the city, and joined a corps of Volunteers raised for its defence; and when it was resolved to deliver up the city without resistance, he, with a small band, tendered his assistance to General Cope, who lay with the royal army at Haddington—an offer which the General (fortunately for the Doctor and his party) declined. He then returned to the sacred duties of his parish, where he was much beloved; and soon afterwards began to display his talents in the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, where he became the object of universal attention and applause. It was about this time that Dr. Robertson so ably defended his friend Mr. Home, the author of the tragedy of *Douglas*, from the proceedings adopted against him in the clerical courts.

The first publication of Dr. Robertson was a sermon, which was preached by him before the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, in 1755; and to it may be attributed the unanimity of his call to the charge of Lady Yester's Church in Edinburgh, to which he was translated in 1758. In February 1759,

<sup>1</sup> One of his sisters, Mrs. Syme, who lived at the head of the Cowgate, was the grandmother of Lord Brougham and Vaux.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Patrick Robertson, who was bred a jeweller, and was very successful in business in Edinburgh.

appeared his “History of Scotland during the reigns of Queen Mary and James VI.” The effect this work produced was instantaneous and extraordinary—congratulatory letters of praise, from the most eminent men of the time, poured in upon him; and it is said that the emoluments derived from it exceeded £600. Preferment immediately followed, which changed at once the whole aspect of his fortunes; for in the same year he was appointed Chaplain to the Garrison of Stirling Castle, in the room of Mr. William Campbell; next year he was nominated one of his Majesty’s Chaplains for Scotland; in the year following (1761), on the death of Principal Goldie, he was elected Principal of the University of Edinburgh, and translated to the Greyfriars’ Church. Two years afterwards he was appointed by the King Historiographer for Scotland, with a salary of £200 a year.

In 1779 Dr. Robertson published, in three volumes quarto, a “History of the Reign of Charles V.” which still farther increased the reputation of its author. For the copyright he received no less than £4500, the largest sum then known to have been paid for a single work; and which, according to the calculation of the Rev. Dr Nisbet of Montrose,<sup>1</sup> amounted exactly to twopence-halfpenny for each word in the work.

Dr. Robertson, in 1778, gave to the world his “History of America,” in two volumes quarto, a work which was well received at the time, and which still continues to be popular. On this occasion he was elected an honorary member of the Royal Academy of History in Madrid, who appointed one of their members to translate the work into Spanish; but after it was considerably advanced, the Spanish Government interfered and prevented it.

In the year 1781, he was elected one of the Foreign Members of the Academy of Sciences at Padua, and, in 1783, one of the foreign Members of the Imperial Academy of Sciences at St. Petersburgh.

In 1791 appeared his last work, also in quarto, entitled, “Historical Disquisitions concerning the Knowledge which the Ancients had of India, and the Progress of Trade with that country, prior to the Discovery of the Cape of Good Hope.”

#### NO. XLII.

#### DR. WILLIAM ROBERTSON, D.D.,

IN HIS FULL CLERICAL DRESS.<sup>2</sup>

THE Doctor’s powerful and persuasive eloquence had gained him an influence in the General Assembly which intimately and conspicuously associated his name with the Ecclesiastical affairs of Scotland. He was a long time leader of the Court party in our Ecclesiastical Parliament, and as a speaker, it is said, he

<sup>1</sup> Some time the Principal of the College of Carlisle in Pennsylvania, and a frequent opponent of Dr. Robertson in the General Assembly.

<sup>2</sup> It was remarked that Dr. Robertson always appeared to greatest advantage in this attire.



KAY. Febt 1790

His Majestys Historiographer 42





KAY  
1788

might have ranked with the first names in the British Senate. He retired from the business of the Church Courts in 1780, but still continued his pastoral duties, preaching when his health permitted, till within a few months of his death, which took place at Grange House, near Edinburgh, on the 11th June 1793.

His colleague Dr. John Erskine, in a sermon preached after his death, said, "Few minds were naturally so large and capacious as Dr. Robertson's, or stored by study, experience, and observation, with so rich furniture. His imagination was correct, his judgment sound, his memory tenacious, his temper agreeable, his knowledge extensive, and his acquaintance with the world and the heart of man very remarkable."

Dr. Robertson is said to have excited the enmity of Dr. Gilbert Stuart, in consequence of his assumed opposition to the appointment of that clever, but vindictive personage, to one of the Law chairs in the University. Whether the Principal really interfered is not certain, but Stuart believed he had done so, and that was quite sufficient to induce him to take every means in his power to annoy his imagined enemy. The "View of Society in Europe," is in direct opposition to the luminous introduction to Dr. Robertson's "History of Charles V.," and the "History of Scotland, from the Reformation to the Death of Queen Mary," is an undisguised and virulent hypercritical attack on the "History of Scotland" by the same eminent writer, and does no great credit to the talents of Dr. Stuart. The Empress Catherine of Russia was so delighted with Dr. Robertson's works, that she presented him with a handsome gold enamelled snuff-box, richly set with diamonds, through Dr. Rogerson, which is still in possession of the family.

Dr. Robertson left three sons and two daughters. The eldest son, a Lord of Session, retired some years ago from the Bench; he lived in Charlotte Square, and died only last year (1836). The next son, Lieutenant-General James, who distinguished himself under Lord Cornwallis, still lives at Canaan Bank, near Edinburgh. The third son was also in the army, but, having married the heiress of Kinloch-Moidart, now (1837) resides almost entirely on his estate. The eldest daughter married Patrick Brydone, Esq. of Lennel House, author of a "Tour through Sicily and Malta," one of whose daughters became Countess of Minto; and another, the wife of Admiral Sir Charles Adam, K.B. The youngest daughter married John Russell, Esq., Writer to the Signet.

#### No. XLIII.

#### QUARTERMASTER TAYLOR.

THIS gentleman was an officer in the 7th Regiment of Foot, and served under General Elliot, afterwards Lord Heathfield, during the memorable siege of Gibraltar by the Spaniards. While in Edinburgh, during the year 1788, his extreme corpulency rendered him very conspicuous, and induced Mr. Kay to make him the subject of the present etching. It is said that the night before his death he was offered £400 for his commission, which he refused.

## No. XLIV.

## COCK-FIGHTING MATCH

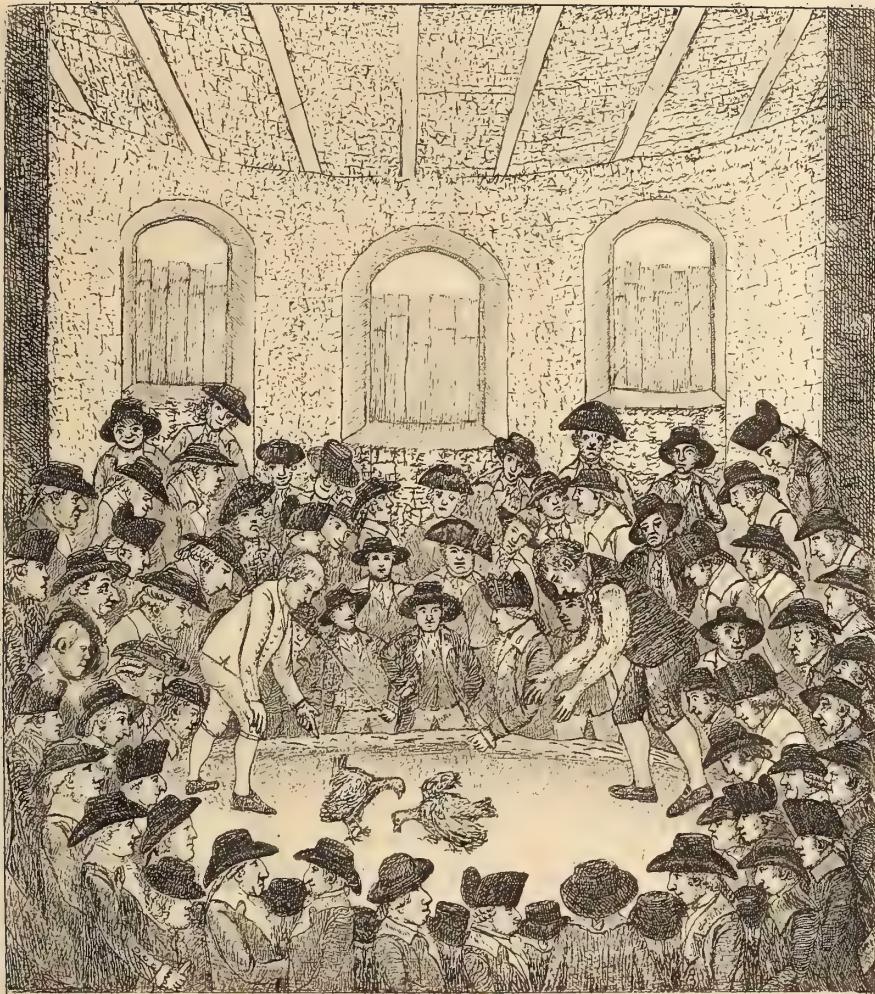
BETWEEN THE COUNTIES OF LANARK AND HADDINGTON.

THIS affair was decided in the unfinished kitchen of the Assembly Rooms, in 1785 ; on which occasion the gentlemen cock-fighters of the county of East Lothian were the victors. Among the audience will be recognised likenesses of the principal individuals of this fancy at the time. Kay, in his MS. notes, particularly points out those of Sir James Baird of Newbyth, William Hamilton, Esq. of Wishaw (afterwards Lord Belhaven), — MacLeod, Esq. of Drimnin, Lord North the caddy; the noted Deacon Brodie, and several other eminent cockers. The two figures in the pit represent the persons employed by the different parties ; the one was an Edinburgh butcher, the other an Englishman.

In allusion to this contest Kay observes, “It cannot but appear surprising that noblemen and gentlemen, who upon any other occasion will hardly show the smallest degree of condescension to their inferiors, will, in the prosecution of this barbarous amusement, demean themselves so far as to associate with the very lowest characters in society.”

Cock-fighting prevailed to a great extent among the Romans, who most likely adopted it, among other things, from the Greeks, with this addition, that they used quails as well as the common gamecock. With the Romans cock-fighting is presumed to have been introduced into Britain, although the first notice we have of it is by Fitz-Stephen, in his Life of the famous Thomas a-Becket, in the reign of Henry II. There were several enactments made against the practice in the reigns of Edward III. and Henry VIII., but it is well known that the cock-pit at Whitehall was erected by royalty itself, for the more magnificent celebration of the sport : it was again prohibited during the Protectorship of Cromwell in 1654, and afterwards by the Act 25th Geo. III. Notwithstanding the efforts made to put it down, this disreputable amusement continued in all parts of England to be practised with the utmost wantonness almost to the present time.

In Scotland, cock-fighting was for many years an ordinary recreation. In 1705 William Machrie, fencing-master in Edinburgh, published “An Essay upon the Royal Recreation and Art of Cocking. Edinburgh, printed by James Watson in Craig’s Closs. Sold by Mr. Robert Freebairn in the Parliament Closs, 1705.” 12mo. This tract, which is now exceedingly scarce, is dedicated to the nobility and gentry of Scotland, who are told that “the sport of cock-fighting is improv’d to a great height ; ‘tis as much an art as managing of horses for races or for the field of battle ; and tho’ it has been in vogue over all Europe, yet ’twas never esteem’d nor practis’d but by the nobility and gentry. It was kept up only by people of rank, and never sunk down to the hands of the commonality, where the art of managing this fierce and warlike bird had



K. S. Thus we poor Cocks, exert our Skill & Brawry <sup>44</sup>  
For idle Gulls, and Kites, that trade in Knavry





O' Drouth



R. Fe 1786

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been either lost or slighted." Some verses, signed "T. C., " are prefixed, from which we learn that

"The sword has always flourish'd, and the bow,  
So long neglected, claims its birthright now,  
And our *cock-matches* owe their rise to you."

From which it may be inferred that this species of amusement had been introduced into Scotland by Machrie, who terms it "a very Innocent, Noble, and highly *Heroick Game!!*"

The style of this curious publication is highly inflated, and the attempt to confer dignity upon this wretched and cruel sport is ludicrous enough. After very minute researches into the antiquity of the "royal recreation," the history of the cock and its habits, the proper mode of treatment, etc., the author concludes—"I am not ashamed to declare to the world that I have a special veneration and esteem for those gentlemen within and about this city who have entered on society for propagating and establishing the royal recreation of cocking (in order to which, they have already erected a Cockpit in the links of Leith), and I earnestly wish that their generous and laudable example may be imitated to that degree, that (in cock-war) village may be engaged against village, city against city, kingdom against kingdom—nay, the father against the son, until all the wars in Europe, wherein so much Christian blood is spilt, be turned into that of the innocent pastime of Cocking."

From the date of Machrie's work until recently, the practice of cock-fighting seems to have been pretty general, especially in Edinburgh, where a regular cock-pit was erected, and liberally supported for many years. On turning over the files of the Edinburgh journals, the names of gentlemen still alive are to be found, who now, it is to be presumed, would not be disposed to consider their former "cocking" propensities with much complacency. An attempt was made two or three years since to revive the "royal recreation" in a certain city in the west, but it was very properly put down by the magistracy.

#### No. XLV.

#### JAMES DONALDSON.

THIS Print represents a half-witted journeyman baker, whom Kay has thought worthy of immortality, on account of his enormous strength.

Many instances of this simpleton's extraordinary physical powers are remembered: Amongst these is the fact of his having frequently, for the amusement of himself and the butchers, knocked down a strong bull-calf with one blow of his prodigious fist. His good nature, however, was often imposed upon by fools as great as himself, who used to load him with burdens sufficient for any three ordinary men.

The Print has been entitled "O Drouth!" by the limner, being a far-fetched allusion to Jamie's thirsty employment.

## No. XLVI.

## MR. ALEXANDER THOMSON

AND

## MISS CRAWFORD.

THOSE who recollect MR. THOMSON, affirm this representation of him to be extremely faithful. He was very remarkable for the length of his arms, which, while walking, he kept dangling by his side, as represented in the Print. He carried on business as a grocer in a shop nearly opposite the Tron Church, where, by persevering industry and fair dealing, he is said to have amassed a considerable fortune; from which circumstance, together with his long and honourable career, he obtained the title of the "Prince of Grocers." Not much in accordance, however, with this high-sounding title he was known also by the less dignified appellation of "Farthing Sandy," owing to his having at one period issued a great number of brass farthings, for the better adjustment of accounts with his numerous customers. His house was at the Abbey-Hill.

Thomson was a widower of long standing; but having grown in riches as well as in years, it appears strange fantasies of greatness began to flit before his imagination. He used to compare himself with the other grocers as a large mastiff dog, placed in the centre of a number of little terriers. With a view to his aggrandizement, he sought to connect himself by marriage with some family of aristocratic blood; and with this "intention full resolved," he is represented in the Print as "casting an eye" at Miss Crawford—a lady somewhat whimsical, if not altogether fantastical, in her dress and manners. The scene is limned by Mr. Kay as witnessed on the Calton-Hill, the day on which Mr Tytler's "fire-balloon" ascended from the Abbey grounds. The "Prince of Grocers," however, was not successful in his pursuit, and ultimately became, among the ladies, an object of ridicule, being known by the feminine *sobriquet* of "Ruffles," from a practice he had of hiding his long fingers in his sleeve appendages. Had the widower aimed at less lofty game, there would have been no doubt of success; his "old brass would have bought a new pan."

Notwithstanding his reputed riches, it is said that Thomson left a mere trifle at his death, having been nearly ruined by a son, who afterwards went to Jamaica, where it is believed he died a mendicant.

MISS CRAWFORD, the object of the grocer's ambition, was the daughter of Sir Hew Crawford of Jordanhill, and resided at the time at a place called Redbraes, Bonnington Road. She continued "deaf as Ailsa Craig" to the wooing of old Ruffles, preferring a life of single blessedness, although it









Retaliation; or the Cuckolden Caught <sup>47</sup>

was said she afterwards formed a “*mesalliance*” with John (commonly called Jack) Fortune, a surgeon, who went abroad (brother of Matthew Fortune, who kept the Tontine, Princes Street)—both sons of old Fortune who kept the noted tavern in the High Street, the resort of the higher ranks in Scotland fifty years ago;<sup>1</sup> but Mrs. Fortune was a younger sister.

Sir Hew’s family originally consisted of fifteen, several of whom died when young. The eldest daughter, Miss Mary, was married in 1775 to General Fletcher of Saltoun (then Campbell of Boquhan), and afterwards to Colonel John Hamilton of Bardowie, in Stirlingshire; and the second, Lucken, was married to General Gordon Cuming of Pitlurg, Aberdeenshire, by whom she had ten children.

Mr. Kay mentions that the publication of this Print created great excitement at the time (1784), and was the cause of several articles being written *pro* and *con* in the periodicals of the day. Captain Crawford (brother to the lady) was very much irritated, and threatened to cudgel the limner, at the same time “daring him at his peril to pencil any lady ever after.” As might have been expected, this threat had a very contrary effect—being immediately followed by an alteration of the Plate, making the head-dress of Miss Crawford a little more ridiculous, and also by the caricature of “**RETALIATION ; OR THE CUDGELLER CAUGHT.**”

#### No. XLVII.

#### **RETALIATION ; OR THE CUDGELLER CAUGHT,**

REPRESENTS the gallant and high-minded Captain Crawford, who was then young, in the hands of a brawny porter, while his sister and her companion, Miss Hay of Montblairy, who then resided with her mother in Haddington’s Entry, Canon-gate, are lustily calling out for help. This caricature, however, is supposed to have been merely a flight of fancy, without any foundation in fact. Captain Crawford, afterwards Sir Hew, was a very handsome man. He married a Miss Johnston, of the county of Leitrim in Ireland, by whom he had two sons and three daughters.

<sup>1</sup> “On the 10th of October 1775, a wager was determined at Fortune’s tavern, Edinburgh, on the quality of the beef of two bullocks—one fed by the Duke of Buccleuch, the other by John Lumsdaine of Blanairn, Esq. A sirloin of each was roasted; and it took two men to carry each to the table. The wager was determined in favour of the Duke. Besides His Grace and Mr. Lumsdaine, there were a goodly number of other noblemen, gentlemen, clergy, etc., at dinner—twenty-one in number—all dressed in the manufactures of Scotland.” The Duke of Buccleuch is well known to have been “a great encourager of Scotch manufactures,” which were at that time in their infancy.—The Earl of Hopetoun, as Commissioner to the General Assembly, used to hold state in Fortune’s tavern; and on election occasions the Scottish Peers frequently terminated the proceedings of the day by dining there. The premises were at an earlier period the town residence of the Earls of Eglinton.

## No. XLVIII.

HENRY VISCOUNT MELVILLE  
 AND  
 THE HON. ROBERT DUNDAS OF ARNISTON,  
 LORD CHIEF BARON OF THE COURT OF EXCHEQUER.

THE first figure in this Print represents the Right Honourable HENRY DUNDAS, Viscount Melville and Baron Dunira.

Mr. Dundas was second son of Robert Dundas of Arniston, Lord President of the Court of Session,<sup>1</sup> by Anne, daughter of Sir William Gordon of Invergordon, his lordship's second wife, and was born on the 28th April 1742.

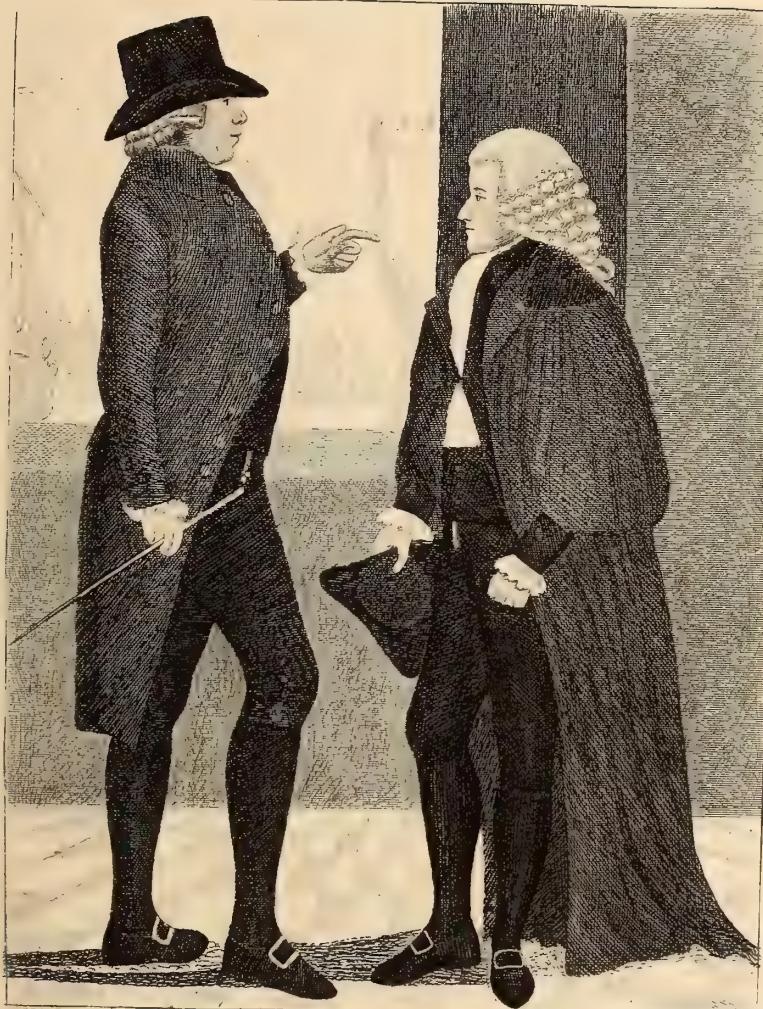
After completing his education at the University of Edinburgh with the usual course of legal study, he was admitted a Member of the Faculty of Advocates in the year 1763.

At this period it has been said, that, after paying the expense of his education and admission to the faculty, Mr. Dundas had just sixty pounds remaining of his patrimony.

Mr. Dundas began his splendid public career in the comparatively humble capacity of an assessor to the Magistrates of Edinburgh. The office of one of his Majesty's Depute-Advocates was then conferred upon him ; and subsequently he was appointed Solicitor-General for Scotland.

To these situations he recommended himself by his superior talents, which were early displayed, and which obtained for him the highest consideration of the Bench and Bar. But the ambition of Mr. Dundas was directed to higher objects than were to be attained even by the most brilliant success at the Scotch bar, where the only honour that would follow the most successful exertion of talent, would be a seat on the bench. He accordingly resolved to try his fortunes in the sister kingdom, and with this view, in the year 1774, successfully contested the county of Mid-Lothian with the Ministerial candidate. He, however, afterwards joined the party then in power—became a zealous and able supporter of Lord North's Administration—and was, as a reward for his services, appointed Lord Advocate of Scotland in 1775. Two years afterwards, he obtained the appointment of Keeper of his Majesty's Signet for Scotland.

<sup>1</sup> To prevent any misconception, it may be right to mention that there were two Presidents of the Court of Session bearing the name of Robert Dundas. The first, who was born on the 9th December 1685, and died on the 26th August 1753, was the father of Lord Viscount Melville. The second, who was born on the 18th July 1713, and died, in the seventy-fifth year of his age, on the 13th December 1787, was the eldest son of the preceding judge by his first marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Watson, Esq. of Muirhouse, and in this way was the "half-brother" (to use a Scotticism) of Lord Melville.





Mr. Dundas had now obtained a high reputation as a statesman ; and from his knowledge of public business, and intimate acquaintance with the condition of the country, was considered so desirable an auxiliary by those in power, that no change of Ministry seriously interfered with his advancement, every new Administration being equally anxious with its predecessors to secure his services. Thus, on the promotion of Lord Shelburne to the premiership, (1782), Mr. Dundas was appointed Treasurer of the Navy. This situation, however, he resigned on the formation of the celebrated Coalition Administration. He was again restored to office by Mr. Pitt, of whom he was latterly one of the steadiest and ablest supporters.

During this interval, Mr. Dundas had rendered himself remarkable in Parliament for his intimate acquaintance with the affairs of India, and was twice elected chairman of committees appointed for the purpose of legislating for this immense territory. But it was as Treasurer of the Navy that Mr. Dundas's services were of the greatest benefit to his country. In this department he effected a total reformation ; substituting order and economy for perplexity and profusion—securing greater promptitude in the payment of the seamen's wages —carrying through Parliament various measures calculated to improve their condition and to increase their comforts—and removing a fruitful source of fraud against the families of sailors, by procuring an act for preventing the successful use of forged instruments. He it was, also, who introduced the bill which empowers seamen to make over their half-pay to their wives and families. Such were some of the benevolent and judicious improvements which Mr. Dundas introduced. He held the office of Treasurer of the Navy till 1800. In the Session of 1784, Mr. Dundas introduced a bill for restoring the estates forfeited on account of the Rebellion of 1745—a measure not less remarkable for its policy than for its liberal and generous spirit.

In 1791, Mr. Dundas was appointed Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, having been previously nominated President of the Board of Control.

Amongst the public measures that originated with Mr. Dundas about this period of his career, was the formation of the Fencible regiments, the Supplementary Militia, the Volunteer Corps, and the Provisional Cavalry. With him also originated the improved system of distributing the army throughout the country in barracks and garrisons. The singular ability and judgment which marked Mr. Dundas's superintendence on military affairs, suggested the propriety of appointing him Secretary of State for the War Department, and he was nominated to this office accordingly in the year 1794. In 1800 he was appointed Keeper of the Privy Seal of Scotland, and his son succeeded him as Keeper of the Signet. He held the offices of Secretary of State, and President of the Board of Control, till his resignation along with Mr. Pitt in 1801.

While in the House of Commons, Mr. Dundas represented first the county, and afterwards the city of Edinburgh. For the former he sat from 1774 till 1787, and for the latter from 1787 till 1802, when he was elevated to the

Peerage by patent dated December 21st of that year, by the title of Viscount Melville, of Melville, in the county of Edinburgh, and Baron Dunira, in the county of Perth.

Neither the important services which Lord Melville had rendered his country, nor his own well-known disinterested and generous nature, could protect him from a prosecution—persecution we had nearly said—instituted ostensibly on the grounds of public justice, but which was carried on with a spirit of bitterness, that, to say the least of it, was calculated to create serious doubts as to the purity of the motives of those with whom it originated.

On the 8th of April 1805, his lordship, who had previously held for a short time the appointment of First Lord of the Treasury, was accused in the House of Commons, by Mr. Whitbread, of having misapplied or misdirected certain sums of public money, with a view to his own private advantage and emolument. Articles of impeachment having been preferred, his lordship was brought to trial before his Peers in Westminster Hall, on the 29th of April 1806. The result was a triumphant acquittal (12th June following) from all the charges. In truth, the utmost extent of any blame imputable to him was, that he had placed too much confidence in some of the subordinates in his office.

After his acquittal, Lord Melville was restored to his place in the Privy Council, from which he had been removed pending his trial, but he did not again take office. From this period he lived chiefly in retirement, participating only occasionally in the debates of the House of Lords.

His lordship died very unexpectedly in the house of his nephew, Lord Chief Baron Dundas, in George Square, on the 29th May 1811; having come to Edinburgh, it is believed, to attend the funeral of his old friend Lord President Blair, who had died suddenly a few days before, and was at the moment lying in the house adjoining that in which Lord Melville expired.

His Lordship was distinguished in his public life by a singular capacity for business, by unwearyed diligence in the discharge of his numerous and important duties, and, as a speaker, by the force and acuteness of his reasoning. In private life his manners were affable and unaffected, his disposition amiable and affectionate. A striking instance of the kindness of his nature is to be found in the fact, that to the latest period of his life, whenever he came to Edinburgh, he made a point of visiting all the old ladies with whom he had been acquainted in his early days, patiently and perseveringly climbing, for this purpose, some of the most formidable turnpike-stairs in the Old Town. In his person he was tall and well-formed, while his countenance was expressive of high intellectual endowments.

The city of Edinburgh contains two public monuments to Lord Melville's memory. The one, a marble statue by Chantrey, which stands in the large hall of the Parliament House; the other a handsome column, one hundred and thirty-five feet high, situated in the centre of St. Andrew's Square. This noble pillar is surmounted by a statue of his lordship, fifteen feet in height.

Lord Melville married first, Elizabeth, daughter of David Rannie, Esq., of

Melville Castle, and by her had one son (the succeeding Viscount) and three daughters. This marriage having been dissolved in 1793, he married, secondly, Jane, sister to James Hope, third Earl of Hopetoun, but by her (who remarried, in 1814, Thomas Lord Wallace) he had no issue.

The second figure represents the Right Hon. ROBERT DUNDAS of Arniston, Lord Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer, in conversation with his uncle, who was also his father-in-law.

Mr. Dundas was eldest son of the second Lord President Dundas, and was born on the 6th of June 1758. He was educated for the legal profession, and became a member of the Faculty of Advocates in the year 1779; immediately after which he was appointed Procurator for the Church of Scotland.

On the promotion of Sir Islay Campbell to the office of Lord Advocate, Mr. Dundas, then a very young man, succeeded him as Solicitor-General; and on the elevation of the former to the Presidency, the latter was appointed to supply his place as Lord Advocate, being then only in the 31st year of his age.

This office he held for twelve years, during which time he sat in Parliament as member for the county of Edinburgh. On the resignation of Chief Baron Montgomery, in the year 1801, he was appointed his successor. His lordship held this office till within a short time of his death, which happened at Arniston on the 17th June 1819, in the sixty-second year of his age.<sup>1</sup>

The excellences which marked the character of his lordship were many, and all of the most amiable and endearing kind. In manner, he was mild and affable; in disposition humane and generous; and in principle, singularly tolerant and liberal—qualities which gained him universal esteem.

As presiding judge of the Court of Exchequer, he on every occasion evinced a desire to soften the rigour of the law when a legitimate opportunity presented itself for doing so. If it appeared to his lordship that an offender had erred unknowingly, or from inadvertency, he invariably interposed his good offices to mitigate the sentence. By the constitution of this court it was assumed that the king could not be subjected in expenses: thus when a party was acquitted—no unfrequent occurrence—he had to bear his own costs, which were always very considerable—but the Lord Chief Baron, whenever he thought that the party had been unjustly accused, invariably recommended to Government that he should be repaid what he had expended, and his recommendations were uniformly attended to.

"It was in private life, however," says his biographer, "and within the circle of his own family and friends, that the virtues of this excellent man were chiefly conspicuous, and that his loss was most severely felt. Of him it may be said, as was most emphatically remarked of one of his brethren on the bench, he died leaving no good man his enemy, and attended with that sincere regret which only those can hope for who have occupied the like important stations, and acquitted themselves as well."

<sup>1</sup> At this period his lordship resided in St. John's Street, Canongate.

## No. XLIX.

## BAILIE JAMES DICKSON

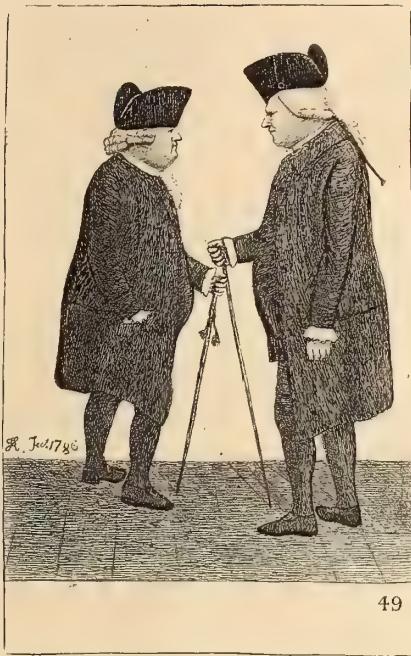
AND

## BAILIE JAMES TORRY.

THE first of these city dignitaries, MR. JAMES DICKSON, was for a long time a bookseller and stationer in Edinburgh. His shop was on the west side of the front of the Royal Exchange entry, and was much frequented by clerical gentlemen, Mr. Dickson himself having been a licentiate of the Presbytery of Edinburgh. In early life, like many others of our “Scottish probationers,” he was glad to shelter himself under the wing of a patron, by undertaking to perform the duties of preceptor to the family of James Kerr, Esq. of Bough-trigg,<sup>1</sup> jeweller, who represented the city of Edinburgh in Parliament from 1747 to 1754, with a very small salary; but having a counterbalancing equivalent in the promise of the first church vacancy that Mr. Kerr could procure for him. The death of this gentleman, however (in 1765), entirely destroyed the young probationer’s hopes. He therefore bethought himself of a lay profession, and commenced business as a bookseller, which he carried on with very considerable success. Mr. Dickson was elected a member of Town Council, as kirk treasurer, in 1774; and from that period till 1786, we find his name repeatedly mentioned in the list of “Magistrates and Town Council of Edinburgh,” as well as in the annals of the “Chamber of Commerce.” Bailie Dickson was married to a sister of the famous Admiral Greig.<sup>2</sup> None of his

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Kerr was married to a daughter of Lord Charles Kerr, consequently connected with the Lothian family.

<sup>2</sup> Sir Samuel Greig was born at Inverkeithing, county of Fife, in 1735. He was a lieutenant in the British Navy at the time he was sent, among others, at the request of the Court of Russia, to improve the marine of that country, which was then in a despicable condition. He was soon made a Captain, and from his great services in the war which ensued against the Turks, under Count Orlow, owing principally to which their whole fleet was destroyed at the Island of Scio, he was appointed Commodore, then Admiral; and not long afterwards the Empress rewarded his services by promoting him to be Admiral of all the Russias, and Governor of Cronstadt. He had also conferred on him the different honours of the empire, viz.:—St. Andrew, St. Alexander Newsky, St. George, etc. He died at Revel of a fever, on the 26th October 1788, shortly after his engagement with the Swedish fleet in the Black Sea, and was interred on the 5th December following, with all the pomp and splendour which the Empress or the empire could bestow. Sir Samuel visited his native country in 1777, on which occasion the Empress ordered a man-of-war to be fitted out for his conveyance. He arrived in Edinburgh on the 20th of August, where he was received with every demonstration of respect. “On Thursday, October 2, the Empress of Russia’s birthday, the Russian frigate in Leith Roads fired a round of twenty-one guns, which was answered by the same number from the Castle of Edinburgh, and on that occasion the Admiral gave a grand entertainment in *Fortune’s* tavern, to the Prince









descendants are now alive. Mr. Dickson died, at his house at Stockbridge, on the 8th July 1800.

MR. JAMES TORRY, the *quondam* friend of Bailie Dickson, was born about the year 1746 at Paxton in Berwickshire. His father Mr. John Torry was for some time governor of Edington Castle, and afterwards factor over the estate of Mr. Hume of Paxton, and one of the most influential farmers in that country-side. Mr. Torry came to Edinburgh in early life, and served his apprenticeship as a clothier with his cousin, Mr. John Black. He afterwards commenced business in partnership with Mr. Butter, predecessor of the present Mr. Butter of Fassally, Perthshire. Their shop was the first one on the east side of the Royal Exchange entry, now (1837) possessed by Mr. Blyth. Mr. Torry married Miss Jane Halliday, daughter of Mr. James Halliday, brewer, Leith, by whom he got the estate of Strathore, which he afterwards sold to the father of John Fergus, Esq., the present proprietor, and Member of Parliament for the Kirkcaldy district of burghs. He was elected a member of the Town Council in 1772, and next year was constituted one of the magistrates of the city, which honours he enjoyed until 1786. He died on the 22d of November 1788, leaving a son,<sup>1</sup> and daughter. The former survives, but the latter (Mrs. Major Douglas) died in Gilmore Place only a few months ago (1837).

No. L.

WILLIAM DOYLE,

SAMUEL SONE, AND

WILLIAM FOSTER.

THE first of these figures to the left was a Lieutenant Doyle; the centre one, Mr. Sone, surgeon, commonly called "The Little Doctor;" and the third, Captain Foster, all of the 24th Regiment; the two last were inseparable companions, notwithstanding their disparity in point of size.

While here with the Regiment in 1784, they were remarkable for their attention to the fair sex; Mr. Kay has accordingly represented them as squiring three of the most celebrated belles of the day, dressed in the fashion of the time, along the North Bridge.

d'Aschkow, the Lord Provost and Magistrates, and many of the nobility and gentry in the city and neighbourhood. Next day his Excellency was presented with the freedom of the city, on which occasion the Lord Provost (Dalrymple) gave an elegant entertainment in his own house. On the 9th of October his Excellency set sail from Leith Roads, on his return to Russia." While on this visit, the Admiral also went to London, where he was introduced to the King.

<sup>1</sup> He was for several years a clothier, under the "Three Wool Packs," and well known in the sporting circles of Edinburgh; but he latterly retired from business, whether with or without a fortune we know not. His daughter Jane married, in June 1832, Henry Lord Cardross, eldest son of the Earl of Buchan.

## No. LI.

## SIR RALPH ABERCROMBY, K.B.,

## GIVING THE WORD OF COMMAND.

SIR RALPH ABERCROMBY was the son of George Abercromby of Tullibody, in Clackmannanshire. He was born in 1734 in the old mansion of Menstrie,<sup>1</sup> which at that period was the ordinary residence of his parents. The house, which is in the village of Menstrie, although not inhabited by any of the family, is still entire, and is pointed out to strangers as the birthplace of the hero. After going through the usual course of study, he adopted the army as his profession; and, at the age of twenty-two, obtained in the year 1756 a commission as Cornet in the third Regiment of Dragoons.

During the early part of his service he had little opportunity of displaying his military talents, but he gradually rose, and in 1787 had attained the rank of Major-General.<sup>2</sup> After the breaking out of the French revolutionary war, Sir Ralph Abercromby served in the campaigns of 1794 and 1795, under the Duke of York, and by his judicious conduct preserved the British army from destruction during their disastrous retreat through Holland. He commanded the advanced guard, and was wounded at the battle of Nimeguen.

After the return of Sir Charles Grey from the West Indies, the French retook the islands of Guadaloupe and St. Lucia, made good their landing on Martinique, and hoisted their national colours on several forts in the islands of St. Vincent, Granada, etc., besides possessing themselves of booty to the amount of 1800 millions of livres. For the purpose of checking this devastation, the British fitted out a fleet in the autumn of 1795, with a proper military force. Sir Ralph was entrusted with the charge of the troops, and at the same time appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in the West Indies. Being detained longer than was expected, the equinox set in before the fleet was ready to sail, and, in endeavouring to clear the Channel, several of the trans-

<sup>1</sup> The estate of Tullibody and Menstrie, at the beginning of the seventeenth century, belonged to Sir William Alexander the poet, better known as Earl of Stirling, which title was conferred upon him by King Charles I. His lordship was much involved in pecuniary difficulties, and his successors had not sufficient prudence to economise; the result of all which was, that their estates were swept away by their creditors somewhere about the middle of that century, by what, in Scots law parlance, are termed "apprisings." Sir Ralph's grandfather, who was a writer in Edinburgh, was the first of the name of Abercromby that possessed Tullibody. He is represented by the Peerage compilers as a descendant of the family of Birkenbog; but no evidence has been produced to substantiate this averment. He had two brothers who attained eminence in their respective callings. Alexander, an advocate, was, on the 7th June 1792, raised to the bench by the title of Lord Abercromby, and died 17th November 1795; and Sir Robert, K.C.B., a General in the Army, who died in 1827.

<sup>2</sup> In 1788 Sir Ralph's place of residence in Edinburgh was in George Square.



SIR RALPH ABERCROMBY, K.B.



ports were lost. The remainder of the fleet reached the West Indies in safety, and by the month of March 1796 the troops were in a condition for active duty. The General succeeded in driving the French from all their possessions, and, assisted by part of a new convoy from Britain, was enabled to capture the island of Trinidad from the Spaniards.

Sir Ralph next made an attack upon the Spanish island of Puerto Rico, which proved unsuccessful, but without by any means tarnishing his previously well-earned laurels. On his return to this country in 1797, he was received with every demonstration of public respect. He was presented by his Majesty with the Colonelcy of the Scots Greys—invested with the honour of the Order of the Bath—rewarded with the lucrative governments of Fort-George and Fort-Augustus, and, on the 26th of January, he was raised to the rank of Lieutenant-General in the Army.

Sir Ralph was next appointed to the chief command in Ireland, where the flame of civil war was threatening to burst forth. After visiting a great portion of the kingdom, and restoring in a great degree the discipline of the army, which, in the Commander's own words, had become, from their irregularities, "more formidable to their friends than their enemies," the General was removed by the Marquis Cornwallis, who united the offices of Lord-Lieutenant and Commander-in-Chief in his own person, much to the satisfaction of Sir Ralph, who was anxious to leave Ireland. He was then appointed Commander of the Forces in Scotland.

In 1798, Sir Ralph was selected to take charge of the expedition sent out to Holland for the purpose of restoring the Prince of Orange to the Stadtholdership, from which he had been ejected by the French. In this expedition the British were at the outset successful. The first and well-contested encounter with General Daendell, on the 27th of August, near the Helder Point, in which the Dutch were defeated, led to the immediate evacuation of the Helder, by which thirteen ships of war and three Indiamen, together with the arsenal and naval magazine, fell an easy prey to the British. The Dutch fleet also surrendered to Admiral Mitchell, the sailors refusing to fight against the Prince of Orange. This encouraging event, however, by no means spoke the sentiments of the mass of the Dutch people, or disconcerted the enemy. On the morning of the 11th of September, the Dutch and French forces attacked the position of the British, which extended from Petten on the German Ocean, to Oude-Sluys on the Zuyder-Zee. The onset was made with the utmost bravery, but the enemy were repulsed with the loss of a thousand men. Sir Ralph, from the want of numbers, was unable to follow up this advantage, until the Duke of York arrived as Commander-in-Chief, with a number of Russians, Batavians, and Dutch volunteers, which augmented the allied army to nearly thirty-six thousand.

An attempt upon the enemy's positions on the heights of Camperdown being agreed upon, on the morning of the 19th September the allied forces successfully commenced the attack. The Russians made themselves masters of Bergen;

but commencing the pillage too soon, the enemy rallied, and attacked the Russians—who were busy plundering—with so much impetuosity, that they were driven from the town in all directions. This untoward circumstance compelled the British to abandon the positions they had stormed, and to fall back upon their former station. Another attack on the stronghold of the enemy was made on the 2d of October. The conflict lasted the whole day, but the enemy abandoned their positions during the night. On this occasion Sir Ralph Abercromby had two horses shot under him. Sir John Moore was twice wounded severely, and reluctantly carried off the field; while the Marquis of Huntly (the late Duke of Gordon), who, at the head of the 92d regiment, was eminently distinguished, received a wound from a ball in the shoulder.

The Dutch and French troops having taken up another strong position between Benerwych and the Zuyder-Zee, it was resolved to dislodge them before they could receive reinforcements. A day of sanguinary fighting ensued, which continued without intermission until ten o'clock at night, amid deluges of rain. General Brune having been reinforced with six thousand additional men, and the ground he occupied being nearly impregnable, while the arms and ammunition of the British, who were all night exposed to the elements, were rendered useless, retreat became a measure of necessity. Upon this the Duke of York entered into an armistice with the Republican forces, by which the troops were allowed to embark for England, where they arrived in safety.

#### No. LII.

### GENERAL SIR RALPH ABERCROMBY, K.B.,

#### VIEWING THE ARMY, ENCAMPED ON THE PLAINS OF EGYPT.

IN the month of June 1800, General Abercromby was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the troops ultimately destined for Egypt. Owing to casualties unnecessary to mention, the armament did not reach the place of its destination till the 8th of March 1801, on which day the troops disembarked in Aboukir Bay, notwithstanding the strenuous efforts of the French to prevent them.

On the 13th March, Sir Ralph attacked the French in their position, and succeeded, after a keen contest, in forcing them to retreat to the heights of Nicopolis. An attempt to take these heights, which were found to be commanded by the guns of the fort, proved unsuccessful. The British took up the position formerly occupied by the enemy, with their right to the sea, and their left to the canal of Alexandria, thus cutting off all communication with the city. On the 18th the garrison of Aboukir surrendered.

General Menou, the French commander, having been reinforced, attempted to take the British by surprise, and suddenly attacked their positions with his whole force. The enemy advanced with much impetuosity, shouting as they went,



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GEN<sup>L</sup> SIR RALPH ABERCROMBY, K.B. 52



but they were received with steady coolness by the British troops. The field was contested with various success, until General Menou, finding that all his endeavours proved fruitless, ordered a retreat, which, from the want of cavalry on the part of the British, he was enabled to accomplish in good order. This battle, which proved decisive of the fate of Egypt, and left an impression not easily to be effaced of British courage and prowess, was dearly gained by the death of Sir Ralph himself. Early in the morning he had taken his station in the front line, from the exposed nature of which, and at a moment when he had dispersed all his staff on various duties, the enemy attempted to take him prisoner.<sup>1</sup> From this perilous situation the General was relieved by the valour of his troops, when it was discovered that he had been wounded in the thigh. He was repeatedly pressed by the soldiers to have the wound attended to; but he treated it as a matter of no moment, and continued to give directions on the field until victory became certain by the retreat of the enemy. The intense excitement of action being thus over, Sir Ralph at last fainted from loss of blood; and although the wound was immediately examined, every attempt to extract the ball proved unsuccessful. He was carried on a litter aboard the *Foudroyant* where he died on the 28th of March.

The death of General Abercromby was looked upon as a national calamity. A monument was ordered to be erected to his memory by the House of Commons; and his Majesty, as a mark of further respect, conferred the title of Baroness on his lady, and the dignity of Baron to the heirs-male of his body. On the recommendation of his Majesty, a pension of two thousand pounds per annum was voted to the Baroness, and to the two next succeeding heirs.

The capital of his native country was not backward in acknowledging the honour reflected by so worthy a son. At a meeting of the Magistrates and Town Council of Edinburgh, it was resolved that a monument to the memory of Sir Ralph Abercromby should be erected on the wall of the High Church; and a very liberal collection was made in all the churches and chapels for the relief of the families of "the brave men who had fallen in Egypt." In honour of his memory, also, the Edinburgh Volunteer Brigade, on the 2d of June, performed a grand military spectacle at the Meadows. They were dressed in "deep funeral uniform," while the bands performed "plaintive pieces of music, some of which were composed for the occasion." The crowd of spectators, as may be supposed, was immense, and the scene is said to have been "solemn and impressive."

Sir Ralph married Anne, daughter of John Menzies of Ferntower, in the county of Perth, by whom he had four sons and two daughters. His eldest son, George, on the death of his mother, 17th February 1821, became

<sup>1</sup> Two of the enemy's cavalry dashing forward, and "drawing up on each side, attempted to lead him away prisoner. In this unequal contest he received a blow on the breast; but with the vigour and strength of arm for which he was distinguished, he seized on the sabre of one of those who struggled with him, and forced it out of his hand. At this moment a corporal of the 42d Highlanders, seeing his situation, ran up to his assistance, and shot one of the assailants, on which the other retired."

Lord Abercromby of Aboukir and Tullibody, and married, 27th January 1799, Montague, third daughter of Henry first Viscount Melville, by whom he has issue one son and two daughters. His second son, John, G.C.B., died unmarried in the year 1817. The third son, James (a Privy Councillor), practised as an English barrister, and was for many years auditor to the Duke of Devonshire. He relinquished that employment upon being appointed Judge-Advocate-General, under Canning's Administration. He was afterwards appointed (in February 1830) Lord Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer in Scotland, which office he held until its abolition. It is hardly necessary to mention that James is presently (1837), M.P. for the city of Edinburgh and Speaker of the House of Commons. He married, in 1802, Mary Ann, daughter of Egerton Leigh, Esq., by whom he has issue one son, Ralph (born 6th April 1803), now (1837) envoy to Tuscany. The fourth son, Alexander, C.B., who still survives, is (1837) a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Army.

## No. LIII.

## LAUCHLAN M'BAIN.

THIS Print, done in 1791, represents a well-known vendor of roasting-jacks. Although confessing at this period to the venerable age of seventy-five, he was still "hale and hearty," and in the zenith of his professional celebrity.

Lauchlan had been a soldier, and at one time served in the 21st, or Royal Scots Fusiliers. It is not said whether he had been at the inglorious affair of Prestonpans, but he hesitated not to state that he was one of the victors at Culloden. At what period he obtained his discharge is unknown; but unfortunately for him his retirement from the army was not accompanied by any pension. Upon the cessation of his military duties he came to Edinburgh, where he settled down in civil life by becoming a manufacturer of fly-jacks and toasting-forks. In this vocation Lauchlan soon acquired notoriety, and became one of the characters of "Auld Reekie." Those who recollect him, and there are many, still remember the fine modulations of his sonorous yet musical voice, as he sang the "roasting toasting" ditty; and like Blind Aleck of Glasgow, he was "the author of all he made, said, or sung."

Lauchlan was unquestionably a favourite with the populace; but as the most universally esteemed are unable to elbow through the world without sometimes giving offence, so it happened with the honest vendor of roasting-jacks. His professional chant, as he frequently winded his way up the back stairs leading from the Cowgate to the Parliament Square, became exceedingly annoying to the gentlemen of the long robe, who, though anxious to abate the nuisance, were unable legally to entangle their tormentor in the meshes of the law. Lauchlan, sensible that these visits might be turned to account, was most





assiduous in paying them, and never failed, when the judges were sitting, to exert his stentorian lungs under the windows of the Court-house. This he did with such success, that at length both judges and practitioners, having lost all patience, collected amongst themselves a sum of money, which they deemed sufficient to purchase an exemption in future from these provoking visitations. Lauchlan pocketed the fee, and promised faithfully not to let his voice come within hearing of the Court in future. He no doubt intended to keep religiously by the letter of his agreement, but at the same time mentally calculated upon the *eclat*, if not the profit, of outwitting a whole court of lawyers. Accordingly, next day he was seen at the usual spot with a huge bell, to which he gave full effect by a scientific movement of the arm that would have done credit to the most experienced city bellman. Many wondered at the sudden change in Lauchlan's mode of announcing his presence; but he explained this by facetiously remarking, that "having sold his *own* tongue to the judges, he was under the necessity of using another."—The ingenuity of Lauchlan was rewarded by an additional *douceur*, coupled with the condition, which he scrupulously kept, that in future there was to be an absolute cessation of his visits in that quarter.

In the course of his peregrinations, Lauchlan offended a well-known civic dignitary, Bailie Creech, one of the chief booksellers in Edinburgh, whose shop was in the centre of the Luckenbooths. The Bailie felt his dignity lessened by the contemptuous manner in which the Veteran of Culloden treated his instructions not to bawl so unharmoniously in front of his shop. At last resolving to compel obedience, he summoned Lauchlan to *compear* before the magistrates. On the day of trial the defender fearlessly entered the Council Chamber, where Creech sat in judgment. After the complaint had been preferred, and a volley of abuse discharged by the angry bailie, old Lauchlan, with an air of well-assumed independence, produced his discharge, and asserted the right which it gave him to pursue his calling in any town or city in Great Britain, save Oxford or Cambridge. The northern Dogberry was dreadfully vexed that in this way his mighty preparation had come to nothing; and, after advising with the ordinary assessor in the Bailie Court, the well-known *James Laing*, he found himself compelled to dismiss the complaint. No sooner had Lauchlan regained the "crown o' the causey," than a universal shout from the "callants" announced the defeat of the Bailie; while the victor, taking his station on the debateable ground in front of the shop, commenced with renewed vigour, the obnoxious cry of "R—r—r—roasting toasting jacks." This was repeated so often that even the penurious Mr. Creech was compelled to *purchase* a cessation of hostilities.

Notwithstanding all his popularity, however, poor Lauchlan found himself, at the long age of ninety-six, possessor of more fame than fortune. It is possible that his own tippling propensities, and consequent want of economy, may have had some share in producing this disastrous result. On one occasion the late Mr. Smith, lamp-contractor for the city of Edinburgh, was the means of saving

the poor fellow's life, having found him fast asleep, in a cold wintry night among the snow near the Meadow Cage.

Finding old age and frailty stealing upon him, in 1805 Lauchlan made an unsuccessful application to the Marquis of Hastings, then Earl of Moira, who was at the time Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in Scotland, to obtain a pension in consequence of the long period of his service. Starvation or the workhouse were now the veteran's only alternatives. His philosophy preferred the latter, and the interest of some friends procured him admission to the Charity Workhouse. One would have thought that his weatherbeaten hulk had at length found a quiet haven—but no! *genius*, it has been remarked, is always *young*, and the adventurous spirit of the warlike son of Mars could not subside into inglorious quiescence. Old Lauchlan, at the age of ninety-six, was turned out of barracks for an amour! The tender-hearted old nurse of the establishment—some twenty years younger than himself—had shown him kindness during an illness, ministering to his wants, and sometimes sitting at his bedside, receiving with greedy ears his stories

“ Of moving accidents by flood and field,  
Of hair-breadth 'scapes in the imminent deadly breach.'  
        . . . . . “ His story being done,  
She gave him for his pains a world of sighs.”

One day, one unpropitious day, an evil eye beheld the simple pair at their feast of sympathy, and such proceedings not being in accordance with the rules of the establishment, they were both expelled. What could a man of spirit do in such a dilemma? Marriage could alone testify his gratitude to the gentle fair, and his resentment of a harsh world's cruelty.

#### No. LIV.

THIS is a second Print of LAUCHLAN M'BAIN, done in 1815. The contrast in the “altered gait” of the two figures, is a striking illustration of the progress of time. He is here represented, after his dismissal from the Workhouse, as again employed in the disposal of his roasting-jacks; but, alas! the best of his days were over. Like other geniuses, he found he had outlived his reputation; and the useful implements in which he dealt, hardly enabled him to beat off the wolf from his door. His wife continued to cling to him through all his adversity, and it is said, helped to cheer the gloomy winter of his age and fortunes. Lauchlan died in 1818, aged 102.









DOUGLAS,

La. RAN. Eternal providence ! What is thy name ?  
My name is NORVAL : and my name he bears.

J. Hay fecit 1784

No. LV.

MRS. SIDDONS,

MR. SUTHERLAND,

MRS. WOODS,

OF THE THEATRE ROYAL, EDINBURGH.

EVERY one who has turned over the leaves of a dramatic biography is acquainted with the usual statements relative to the life of Mrs. SIDDONS,—how she first appeared at Drury Lane Theatre, in the year 1775, as the representative of *Portia*, and towards the end of the season degenerated into a walking Venus in the pageant of the *Jubilee*,—how she returned to the Bath Theatre the year following,—how, a few years afterwards, she reappeared in London with extraordinary success, and, after a brilliant career, finally retired from the stage in July 1812. Her biographers, however, have never indulged the world with any thing like a detailed account of her first appearance on the Edinburgh stage, which occurred on the 22d May 1784. During her engagement, “the rage for seeing her was so great, that one day there were 2557 applications for 630 places ;” and many even came from Newcastle to witness her performances.<sup>1</sup> Her engagement was owing to a few spirited individuals, who took all risk on themselves, the manager of the Edinburgh Theatre being afraid of hazardous speculations. The *Edinburgh Weekly Magazine*, in its report of her appearance, mentions, that “the manager had taken the precaution, after the first night, to have an officer’s guard of soldiers at the principal door. But several scuffles having ensued, through the eagerness of the people to get places, and the soldiers having been rash in the use of their bayonets, it was thought advisable to withdraw the guard on the third night, lest any accident had happened from the pressure of the crowd, who began to assemble round the doors at eleven in the forenoon.”

<sup>1</sup> The attractions of Mrs. Siddons were so great, that few could resist the temptation of visiting the Theatre. Amongst those whom her fascinations had drawn from their burrows in the Old Town, was a respectable gentleman belonging to the profession of the law, of the name of Fraser, who was induced to take this, to him, most extraordinary step, in order to gratify his daughter. The play selected was *Venice Preserved*; and, after some little difficulty, the father and daughter were seated in the pit. Old Fraser listened to the first act with the most perfect composure : the second followed, and in the course of it he asked his daughter, “Which was the woman Siddons ?” She, perfectly amazed, solved the difficulty by pointing out *Belvidera*, the *only female* in the play. Nothing more occurred till the catastrophe. Then, but not till then, he turned to his daughter and inquired, “Is this a comedy or a tragedy ?”—“ Bless me, Papa ! a tragedy, to be sure.”—“ So I thought, for I’m beginning to feel a commotion.”

The plays in which she acted were as follows:—

May 22.	Venice Preserved.	June 5.	Jane Shore.
24.	Gamester.	7.	Douglas.
26.	Venice Preserved.	9.	Grecian Daughter (for her benefit).
27.	Gamester.	10.	Mourning Bride.
29.	Mourning Bride.	11.	Grecian Daughter (for benefit of the Charity Workhouse).
June 1.	Douglas.		
	3. Isabella.		

On the 12th she set out for Dublin, where she was engaged to perform twenty nights for £1000.

In speaking of her appearance in *Douglas*, the *Courant* observes, “We have seen Mrs. Crawford in the part of Lady Randolph, and she played it perhaps with more solemnity and as much dignity as Mrs. Siddons, but surely not with so much interesting sensibility. It would far exceed our limits to point out or describe the many beauties that charmed us in the representation of this piece. Mrs. Siddons never once disappoints the spectator; but from the moment of her appearance she interests and carries along his admiration of every tone, look, and gesture. While the discovery of her son gradually proceeds, she suspends the audience in the most pleasing interesting anxiety.

“During the beautiful narration of Old Norval, when he says—

‘Red came the river down, and loud and oft  
The angry spirit of the water shriek’d,’ etc.,

she kept the audience by her looks and attitude in the most silent anxious attention, and they read in her countenance every movement of her soul. But when she breaks out—

‘Inhuman that thou art!  
How couldst thou kill what waves and tempests spared?’

they must be of a flinty nature indeed who burst not into tears.

“When she discovers herself to her son—

‘My son! my son!  
I am thy mother, and the wife of Douglas,’

we believe there was not a dry eye in the whole house.”

Mrs. Siddons played eleven nights exclusive of the charity one. She shared £50 a night for ten nights, and at her benefit drew £350, besides a sum of £260, with which a party of gentlemen presented her. From the subscribers she received an elegant piece of plate, on which was engraved—“As a mark of esteem for superior genius and unrivalled talents, this vase is respectfully inscribed with the name of SIDDONS. Edinburgh, 9th June 1784.”

The poetical epistle which follows, showing the ferment into which her presence threw the town, is clever, and worthy of preservation:—

EPISTLE FROM MISS MARIA BELINDA BOGLE, AT EDINBURGH, TO HER FRIEND,  
MISS LAVINIA LEETCH, AT GLASGOW.

I HEAR with deep sorrow, my beautiful Leetch,  
In vain to come here you your father beseech ;  
I say in all places, and say it most truly,  
His heart is as hard as the heart of *Priuli* ;  
'Tis composed of black flint, or of Aberdeen granite,  
But smother your rage—'twould be folly to fan it.

Each evening the playhouse exhibits a mob,  
And the right of admission's turn'd into a job.  
By five the whole pit used to fill with subscribers,  
And those who had money enough to be bribers.  
But the public took fire, and began a loud jar,  
And I thought we'd have had a Siddonian war.  
The Committees met, and the lawyers' hot mettle  
Began very soon both to cool and to settle ;  
Of public resentment to blunt the keen edge,  
In a coop they commented that sixty they'd wedge ;  
And the coop's now so crann'd, it will scarce hold a mouse,  
And the rest of the Pit's turn'd a true public-house.  
With porter and pathos, with whisky and whining,  
They quickly all look as if long they'd been dining ;  
Their shrub and their sighs court our noses and ears,  
And their twopenny blends in libation with tears :  
The god of good liquor with fervour they woo,  
And before the fifth act they are "*a' greeting fow.*"  
Though my muse to write satire's reluctant and loth,  
This custom, I think, savours strong of the Goth.

As for Siddons herself, her features so tragic  
Have caught the whole town with the force of their magic :  
Her action is varied, her voice is extensive,  
Her eye very fine, but somewhat too pensive.  
In the terrible trials of *Beverley's* wife  
She rose not above the dull level of life.  
She was greatly too simple to strike very deep,  
And I thought more than once to have fallen asleep.  
Her sorrows in *Shore* were so soft and so still,  
That my heart lay as snug as a thief in a mill :  
I have never as yet been much overcome  
With distress that's so gentle, and grief that's so dumb ;  
And, to tell the plain truth, I have not seen any  
They get, like the tumble of *Yates* in *Mandane* ;  
For acting should certainly rise above nature,  
But indeed now and then she's a wonderful creature.—  
When *Zara's* revenge burst in storms from the tongue,  
With rage and reproach all the ample roof rung,—  
*Isabella*, too, rose all superior to sadness,  
And our hearts were well harrow'd with horror and madness.  
From all sides of the house, hark the cry how it swells !  
While the boxes are torn with most heart-piercing yells,—  
The Misses all faint, it becomes them so vastly,  
And their cheeks are so red, that they never look ghastly :

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

Even ladies advanced to their grand climacteries  
 Are often led out in a fit of hysterics ;  
 The screams are wide-wafted east, west, south, and north,  
 Loud Echo prolongs them on both sides the Forth.

You ask me what beauties most touchingly strike ?—  
 They are beauteous all, and all beauteous alike  
 With lovely complexions that time ne'er can tarnish,  
 So thick they're laid o'er with a delicate varnish ;  
 Their bosoms and neck have a gloss and a burnish,  
 And their cheeks with fresh roses from Raeburn<sup>1</sup> they furnish.

I quickly return, and am just on the wing,  
 And some things I'm sure that you'll like I will bring—  
 The sweet Siddons' cap, the latest dear ogle :  
 Farewell till we meet. Your true friend,

MARY BOGLE.

*Edinburgh, June 7, 1784.*

During the summer season of the following year Mrs. Siddons again honoured Modern Athens with her presence, and created as great a sensation as she had done the year preceding. The receipts during her engagement were :—

1785, July 12. Grecian Daughter	.	.	£95	0	0
14. Macbeth	.	.	125	0	0
16. Fair Penitent	.	.	126	0	0
18. Isabella	.	.	154	10	0
20. Douglas	.	.	130	0	0
23. Carmelite	.	.	128	0	0
25. Venice Preserved	.	.	130	0	0
26. Carmelite	.	.	84	0	0
27. Which is the Man ? <sup>2</sup>	.	.	84	0	0
28. Isabella	.	.	139	0	0
29. Suspicious Husband	.	.	15	0	0
30. Jane Shore	.	.	115	0	0
August 1. Earl of Warwick	.	.	123	0	0
2. Mourning Bride	.	.	107	0	0
3. Provoked Husband <sup>3</sup>	.	.	125	0	0
6. Gamester <sup>4</sup>	.	.	200	0	0
8. Douglas	.	.	137	0	0
9. Earl of Warwick	.	.	60	16	0

On the 12th of August, Mrs. Siddons made her first appearance in Glasgow in the character of *Belvidera*.

<sup>1</sup> The principal perfumer at that period in Edinburgh.

<sup>2</sup> In this comedy Miss Kemble appeared as *Lady Bell Bloomer*, but Mrs. Siddons did not act in it.

<sup>3</sup> For the benefit of Miss Kemble.

<sup>4</sup> Mrs. Siddons' own benefit, exclusive of sold tickets. Upon this occasion she acted the part of the *Fine Lady* (with a song in character) [! !], in the afterpiece of *Lethe*.

MR. SUTHERLAND'S range of character seems to have been rather extensive, for we find him cast for and playing *Stukely* in the *Gamester*, *Falkland* in the *Rivals*, *Sciolto* in the *Fair Penitent*, *Oroonoko*, *Old Norval*, &c. He made his first appearance on the Edinburgh stage on the evening of Monday the 21st January 1782, in the character of *Oroonoko*, being announced as from the Dublin Theatre. "Mr. Sutherland," says a critique of his performance of this character, "I apprehend, was not well advised when he ventured a first appearance in this ticklish hero. His person ought to have commanded respect, and the lustre of his eye to have shone through his sooty complexion. But his person is not princely, and his eye could not always be distinguished from the rest of his face, but by the white. His attitudes were in general well imagined, but not properly supported. If the eye was attracted by the disposition of the body, the ear was offended by the unmeaning unexpressive voice. It is lamentable, indeed, when the voice denies its office, and will not convey the feelings of its master; for I am sensible the gentleman frequently felt the genuine emotions arising from his situation. He is very much in the predicament of the rest as to action; where it was not much required he was redundant, and where the tempest and whirlwind of passion demanded correspondent agitations of the body, he was unsuccessful. Why should tears be represented by clapping a white handkerchief to the face, or by applying the hand to the eyes? When this performer shall have acquired a proper strength, clearness, and modulation of voice, which are certainly not unattainable, he may do well."

Of Mr. Sutherland's appearance in *Stukely*, the following notice is taken:—  
"Stukely, upon the whole, was well done, and in some strokes excellent; but the voice was too low, and the manner and action too pinched, for such a bold-faced villain."

Very little is known of MRS. WOODS. She seldom acted, and then only characters of a trifling nature—*Eliza* in Jackson's *Eldred*, and *Leonora* in the *Mourning Bride*, for instance. Her husband was for thirty years the leading actor in the Edinburgh Theatre, his admirers—the public—having during that time strenuously opposed every attempt of the manager to supersede him. Mr. Woods retired on the 19th April 1802, purposing to occupy his time by giving instructions in elocution; but disease did not permit him to carry such a scheme into effect, and he died on the 14th December of that year.

On the occasion of his benefit, 17th April 1784, was performed "A New Local, Farcical, Musical Interlude (never before acted), called *Hallow Fair*," in which he played "*Young Riot*, the drunken buck," which is curious as not being included in the *Biographia Dramatica*.

## No. LVI.

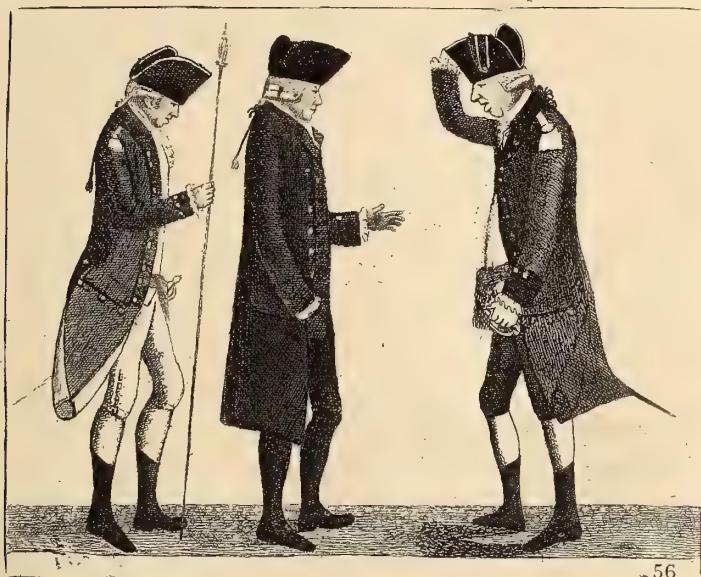
CAPTAIN GEORGE GORDON,  
 CAPTAIN GEORGE ROBERTSON, AND  
 JOHN GRIEVE, ESQ.,  
 LORD PROVOST OF EDINBURGH.

CAPTAIN GORDON, the first figure in the Print, is represented as in attendance on the Lord Provost. He was formerly an officer of the Scottish Brigade<sup>1</sup> in the service of Holland, and was appointed to his situation as Captain in the Town Guard, on the death of Captain Robertson in 1787. He lived in Bell's Wynd, High Street, and was somewhat remarkable for his forenoon or meridian potations, an indulgence by no means uncommon in his day. He died on the 25th September 1803.

CAPTAIN ROBERTSON, who is in the attitude of receiving instructions from the Lord Provost, has already been noticed as one of “the Three Captains of Pilate’s Guard,” No. XV.

JOHN GRIEVE, Esq., the centre figure of this triumvirate, was a merchant in the Royal Exchange, and held the office of Lord Provost in the years 1782-3 and again in 1786-7. He entered the Town Council so early as 1765, was treasurer in 1769, and Dean of Guild in 1778-9. Mr. Grieve possessed a great deal of natural sagacity, to which he entirely owed his success in business,

<sup>1</sup> The Scottish Brigade in Holland were a body of about six battalions, originally sent for the purpose of assisting the Republic. They continued to be supplied with recruits from Scotland, and kept in an effective state; but under one pretence or other they were detained so long in the service of the Dutch that it almost came to be a matter of dispute whether there existed a right to recall them. In 1763 the chiefs or officers of the regiment addressed a strong remonstrance to the British Secretary at War, expressing a desire to be removed from the provinces on account of indifferent usage; but, either from inability or neglect, their remonstrance was not sufficiently attended to. In 1779, they again made offer of their services to the British Government, being unwilling to loiter away their time in garrison towns, “while the enemies of their country were uniting against her;” but the States of the United Provinces resolved that the Scotch Brigade should, on and after the 1st of January 1783, be incorporated with the Dutch troops, and in every way similarly situated. At that time the Scotch Brigade had been above 200 years in the service of the States, and in the numerous battles and sieges in which they had been engaged they never lost a single colour, having on all occasions defended them with the utmost bravery. “At Bergen-op-Zoom, in 1747, in particular, General Marjoribank’s regiment consisted of 850 rank and file, of which only 220 survived the fatal storm of the place; but these brave handful of men, although many of them were wounded, cut their way through the grenadiers of France, and carried off their colours in triumph into the lines of the Allied army of Steebergen.” On this conjunction of the Scotch Brigade with the Dutch regiments, many of the officers refusing to subscribe the new oaths of allegiance, returned to their native country.





as well as his rise in civic dignity, being almost totally uneducated—so much so, that on many occasions he displayed the most gross ignorance of his own language, by the ludicrous misapplication of words even in common conversation. He was nevertheless a very active and upright magistrate, “although,” says Mr. Kay, “there was always something in his manner that acted against his popularity;” and when city politics ran high, as they frequently did during his long connection with the civic government, the circumstance of his having been horse-whipped by some of the “Edinburgh bucks”—for having, while a constable, committed some females of equivocal repute to the Guard-house, under the protection of the famed *Shon Dhu*—was frequently commented upon by his opponents. For this assault they were apprehended, and, with great justice, severely fined.

Mr. Grieve deserved some credit for his political or rather party consistency, a virtue, according to Mr. Kay, as rare in those days as it is now. His active support of Sir Laurence Dundas in 1780,<sup>1</sup> seems to have been the means of facilitating his future rise. He was elected Lord Provost in 1782; and in 1788 he attained the acme of his ambition, by being appointed one of his Majesty’s Commissioners of Excise.

Mr. Grieve resided for many years in Strichen’s Close, High Street, the house having an entrance also from Blackfriars’ Wynd. The premises were at a former period occupied by the Earl of Morton. He afterwards removed to a

<sup>1</sup> Sir Laurence Dundas had represented the city of Edinburgh from 1767 till 1780; but he had offended many of his constituents by voting in opposition to Lord North’s Administration, on Mr. Dunning’s motion (April 6) respecting the increasing influence of the Crown, which he did, it was stated, in revenge for having been refused a British Peerage. The candidate who was proposed in his stead was the present Sir William Miller, afterwards Lord Glenlee, a gentleman at that time young, but possessed of great abilities, and universally respected. The writs were issued in September, a short time prior to the annual election of the Town Council; and the friends of Sir Laurence, aware that they were in a minority, resorted to every expedient to postpone the election of the city member until the meeting of the new Council. The friends of Mr. Miller, on the other hand, were as determined not to delay the return of their representative. The Lord Provost (Walter Hamilton, Esq.) was at the time in bad health, and confined to his house—by Sir Laurence’s friends he was represented as capable of doing his duty, while their opponents affirmed the contrary. Be that as it may, however, Sir Laurence’s party succeeded in withholding the Sheriff’s precept. Mr. Miller’s friends contended that the circumstances of the Provost’s indisposition were such as to warrant the senior Bailie in assuming his functions. They accordingly, under authority of old Bailie Leslie, and furnished with a notarial copy of the precept, convened a meeting of the Council, and on the 16th September elected Mr. Miller member for the city. Mr. Grieve protested against the proceedings in name of his fellow-councillors, while Hugo Arnot did the same thing for the Lord Provost. By the time, however, that the new leets of magistrates were made up, and five new councillors admitted, it was found that Sir Laurence’s friends were in the majority. A new election was the consequence, under the sanction of the Lord Provost, which took place on the 9th September, and Sir Laurence of course returned amid the counter-protests of Mr. Miller’s friends. Thus there were two members elected for the city of Edinburgh. The circumstance, as was to be expected, gave rise to various law proceedings, which were brought before the Court of Session; while Sir Laurence petitioned Parliament against the return of Mr. Miller. A committee was accordingly appointed by the House of Commons, who set aside the then sitting member, by declaring the petitioner duly elected.

The famous Deacon Brodie made a conspicuous figure in this election, by keeping back his promise to vote for either party. In consequence of this he made himself a man of great moment to both of the candidates, because on his vote the election rested.

house in Princes Street, where he became instrumental in raising the Earthen Mound, vulgarly called the “Mud Brig,” the east side of which, where it was commenced, may be observed to be a little eastward of the line of Hanover Street, and opposite Provost Grieve’s door, being particularly intended for the convenience of that gentleman. Mr. Grieve died in May 1803.

## No. LVII.

## REV. HUGH BLAIR, D.D.

OF THE HIGH CHURCH, EDINBURGH,

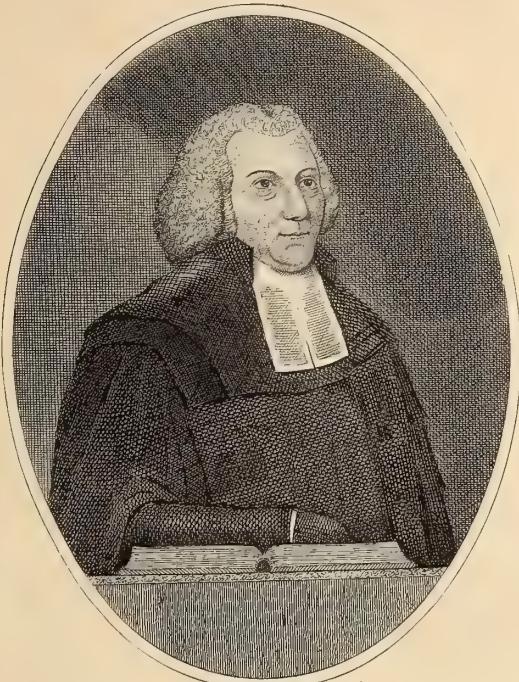
THE author of the “Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres,” and of five volumes of universally admired Sermons, whose life and writings have done so much credit to the Scottish pulpit, was born at Edinburgh in 1718. His father was a merchant, and grandson to Robert Blair, an eminent Presbyterian “Scots Worthy” of the seventeenth century.<sup>1</sup>

Young Blair commenced his academical studies in 1730; and having been prevented by constitutional delicacy of health from participating much in the pastimes peculiar to youth, he became the more closely devoted to the acquisition of knowledge. His first striking demonstration of talent was exhibited in an “Essay on the Beautiful,” written while a student of logic, and when only in his sixteenth year, which, as a mark of distinction, was ordered by Professor Stevenson to be publicly read at the end of the session.

In 1741 he was licensed by the Presbytery of Edinburgh; and his sermons being distinguished at the very outset for correctness of design, and that peculiar chastity of composition which so much distinguished his after productions, his talents as a preacher soon became the topic of public remark. His first charge was the parish of Colessie in Fife, presented to him by the Earl of Leven in 1742; but the very next year he was recalled to the metropolis, by being elected one of the ministers of the Canongate Church. Here, in 1745, on the breaking out of the Rebellion, he preached a sermon warmly in favour of the Hanoverian line, which was afterwards printed, and it is said had the effect of strengthening the loyalty of the people.

Blair continued in the Canongate eleven years, during which period he had the satisfaction of attracting an immense congregation from all quarters of the city, and found himself daily acquiring popularity. In 1754, he was called to

<sup>1</sup> In 1754 were published at Edinburgh, “Memoirs of the Life of Mr. Robert Blair, Minister of the Gospel, sometime at Bangor in Ireland, and afterwards at St. Andrews in Scotland: in two parts. The first part wrote by himself, and the second by Mr. William Row, sometime Minister of the Gospel at Ceres.” This work is exceedingly curious.



I KAY 1798 57



the pastorship of Lady Yester's Church by the Town Council of Edinburgh ; and again by the same body, in 1758, he was translated to one of the charges in the High Church. About the same period, the degree of D.D. was conferred upon him by the University of St. Andrews. In 1759, Dr. Blair commenced the delivery of those lectures on "Rhetoric and the Belles Lettres," afterwards given to the public in a printed form, and which have since continued to hold precedence as a standard work on literary composition. The lectures were undertaken with the concurrence of the University ; and so popular did they at once become, that in 1761 the Town Council procured from Government an endowment of £70 a-year towards instituting a historical class in connection with the College, of which Dr. Blair was appointed Professor. Hitherto, except in the case of one or two sermons on particular occasions, which were printed, the Doctor had not appeared as an author before the world. The deep interest which he took, however, in the exertions of Macpherson to recover the traditional poetry of the Highlands, led him to publish, in 1763, "a critical Dissertation on the Poems of Ossian," which was held by the advocates for their authenticity to be one of the finest specimens of "critical composition in the English language."<sup>1</sup>

Although his style of pulpit oratory had become an object of very general imitation among the young clergy, and although he had been repeatedly urged to favour the world with some of those productions which had captivated so many hearers, it was not till 1777 that he was induced to think of publishing. In that year he transmitted the MS. of his first volume of sermons, through the medium of Mr. Creech, to an eminent publisher in London (Mr. Strachan), with a view to the disposing of the copyright. Strachan, presuming probably on a very general feeling of aversion then existing in the public mind towards clerical productions, sent a discouraging answer to Dr. Blair. In the mean time the MS. had been handed to Dr. Johnson for perusal, who, after Strachan's unfavourable letter had been despatched to the north, sent a note to the publisher, in which he says, "I have read over Dr. Blair's first sermon with more than approbation ; to say it is good, is to say too little." This judgment, strengthened by a conversation afterwards held with Dr. Johnson, soon convinced Mr. Strachan of the error he had committed. He therefore wrote a second time to Dr. Blair, inclosing Johnson's note, and agreeing, in conjunction with Mr. Cadell and Mr. Creech of Edinburgh, to purchase the volume for one hundred pounds.<sup>2</sup> The popularity of these sermons exceeded all anticipation ;

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Blair was the *first* person who introduced the Poems of Ossian to the notice of the world ; first, by the "Fragments of Ancient Poetry" which he published ; and next, by setting on foot an undertaking for collecting and publishing the entire poems. He used to boast of this, but he little dreamed that the lapse of a few years would produce so general a change in public opinion as to the authenticity of these remarkable productions.

<sup>2</sup> The MS. was first submitted to the perusal of Mr. Creech, who was so highly taken with it, that he made an offer off-hand to the author of one hundred guineas. Dr. Blair was so much struck with the amount, as to be almost incredulous of the verity of Mr. Creech's offer. "Will you indeed !" was his exclamation.

so much so, that the publishers presented the author with two additional sums of money, by way of compliment. Not long after its first publication, the volume attracted the notice of George III. and his consort—a portion of the sermons, it is said, having been first read to their Majesties in the royal closet by the eloquent Earl of Mansfield. So highly did their Majesties esteem the merits of the author, that a pension of £200 was settled upon him. The Doctor afterwards published other three volumes of sermons, all of which met an equally flattering reception, and were translated into almost all the European languages.

Upon occasion of the publication of Dr. Blair's Lectures, Logan the poet addressed a letter to Dr. Gilbert Stuart, at that time editor of the "English Review and Political Herald," from which the following beautiful extracts have been taken:—

"Dr. Blair's Lectures are to be published sometime in spring. I need not tell you that I am very much interested in the fate and fame of all his works. Besides his literary merit, he hath borne his faculties so meekly in every situation, that he is entitled to favour as well as candour. He has never with pedantic authority opposed the career of other authors, but has, on the contrary, favoured every literary attempt. He has never studied to push himself immaturely into the notice of the world, but waited the call of the public for all his productions; and now, when he retires from the republic of letters into the vale of ease, I cannot help wishing success to Fingal<sup>1</sup> in the last of his fields. \* \* \* \* Your influence to give Dr. Blair his last passport to the public will be very agreeable to the *literati* here, and will be a particular favour done to me. It will still farther enhance the obligation if you will write me such a letter as I can show him, to *quiet his fears*."

Dr. Blair retired from the Professorship in 1788, in consequence of advanced age, and in a few years afterwards found himself also unable to discharge the duties of the pulpit. Such, however, was the vigour of his intellect, that in 1799, when past his eightieth year, he composed and preached one of the most effective sermons he ever delivered, in behalf of the Fund for the Benefit of the Sons of the Clergy, the subject of which was—"The compassionate beneficence of the Deity."

In addition to his acquirements in theology and general literature, Dr. Blair was intimately acquainted with some of the sciences; while it may be worthy of remark, he also indulged to a considerable extent in light reading. "The Arabian Nights' Entertainments," and "Don Quixote," were among his especial favourites. He was also an admirer of Mrs. Anne Radcliffe's talents for romance, and honoured Mr. Pratt's "Emma Corbett" with particular praise. In Church politics, although the Doctor took no active part, he was, like his intimate friend Principal Robertson, a decided Moderate, and was zealous to adopt any means of improving the worship of the Church of Scotland, where such could be done

<sup>1</sup> This allusion, considering the share Dr. Blair had in bringing the works of Ossian to light, is extremely appropriate.

without an infringement of principle. With this view, during one of his visits to London, he procured singers from the Cathedral of York, by whose aid he originated an amendment in the conducting of the psalmody, which was at first looked upon as a daring innovation, but is now become pretty general throughout the Establishment.

There were some slight defects in the character of the Doctor, which have been admitted by his warmest friends—he was vain, and very susceptible of flattery. A gentleman one day met him on the street, and, in the course of conversation, mentioned that his friend Mr. Donald Smith, banker, was anxious to secure a seat in the High Church, that he might become one of the Doctor's congregation. "Indeed," continued this person, "my friend is quite anxious on this subject. He has tried many preachers, but he finds your sermons, Doctor, so superior in the graces of oratory, and so full of pointed observation of the world, that he cannot think of settling under any other than you."—"I am very glad to hear that I am to have Mr. Smith for a hearer," said the preacher with unconscious self-gratulation—"he is a very sensible man."

Dr. Blair's "taste and accuracy in dress," continues our authority, "were absolutely ridiculous. There was a correctness in his wig, for instance, amounting to a hair-breadth exactness. He was so careful about his coat, that, not content with merely looking at himself in the mirror to see how it fitted in general, he would cause the tailor to lay the looking-glass on the floor, and then standing on tiptoe over it, he would peep athwart his shoulder *to see how the skirts hung.* It is also yet remembered in Edinburgh, with what a self-satisfied and finical air this great divine used to walk between his house and the church every Sunday morning, on his way to perform service. His wig frizzed and powdered so nicely—his gown so scrupulously arranged on his shoulders—his bands so pure and clean—and every thing about him in such exquisite taste and neatness."

Upon one occasion, while sitting for his portrait, he requested the painter to draw his face with a *pleasing smile.* The painter replied, "Well, then, you must *put on* a pleasing smile." The Doctor, in attempting to do this, made a most horrid *grin*, which, being immediately transferred to the canvas, gave his effigy the appearance of that of a downright idiot. This effect being pointed out to him by a friend, he immediately ordered the painting to be destroyed, and a new one forthwith commenced, the Doctor contenting himself with having it executed without the "pleasing smile."

During the latter part of his life almost all strangers of distinction who visited Edinburgh brought letters of introduction to Dr. Blair; and as he was quite at ease in point of worldly circumstances, and had then in a great measure ceased to study intensely, he in general entertained them frequently and well. On one of these occasions, when he had collected a considerable party at dinner to meet an English clergyman, a Scotchman present asked the stranger what was thought of the Doctor's sermons by his professional brethren in the south. To his horror, and to the mortification of Mrs. Blair, who sat near, and who looked upon her husband as a sort of divinity, the Englishman answered, "Why, they are not

partial to them at all."—"How, sir," faltered out the querist—"how should that be?"—"Why," replied the southron, "because they are so much read, and so generally known, that our clergymen can't borrow from them." The whole company, hitherto in a state of considerable embarrassment, were quite delighted at this ingenious and well-turned compliment.

Dr. Blair died in the 83d year of his age, on the 27th December 1800. He was buried in the Greyfriars' Churchyard—the Westminster Abbey of Scotland—where a tablet to his memory, containing a highly elegant and classical Latin inscription, is affixed to the southern wall of the church. He married, in 1748, his cousin, Katherine Bannatyne, daughter of the Reverend James Bannatyne, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, by whom he had a son and daughter. The former died in infancy, and the latter when about twenty-one years of age. Mrs. Blair also died a few years previous to the demise of her husband. Dr. Blair's usual place of residence in summer was at Restalrig—in winter in Argyle Square.<sup>1</sup>

#### No. LVIII.

### THE HONOURABLE HENRY ERSKINE,

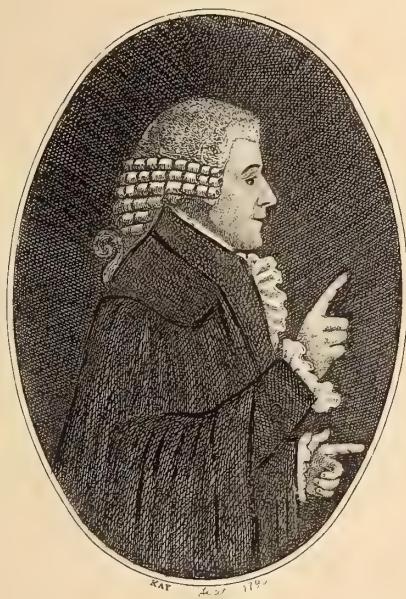
DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF ADVOCATES.

MR. ERSKINE, in consequence of holding an appointment from the Prince of Wales, generally presided at the anniversary meeting of his Royal Highness's household in Edinburgh on the 12th of August;<sup>2</sup> hence the reason why Kay has placed the Prince's coronet at the bottom of the Print. The motto, "Seria mixta jocis," is in allusion to the uncommon humour and vivacity which characterised his legal pleadings.

The Hon. Henry Erskine was the third son of Henry David, tenth Earl of Buchan, by Agnes, daughter of Sir James Stewart of Goodtrees, and was born at Edinburgh on the 1st November 1746. His patrimony was trifling, and had it not been for the exemplary kindness of his eldest brother, who took a paternal charge both of Henry and his younger brother Thomas, afterwards Lord Erskine, he would not have been able to defray the expenses attendant upon the course of study requisite to be followed in order to qualify him for the bar. In the year 1765, Mr. Erskine was admitted a member of the Faculty of Advocates. He had previously prepared himself for *extempore* speaking, by attending the Forum

<sup>1</sup> Near the present Industrial Museum.

<sup>2</sup> On one of these occasions, while a gentleman was singing after dinner, the Prince's tobacconist accompanied the song with his fingers upon the wainscoting of the room, in a very accurate manner. When the music finished, the chairman said, "He thought the Prince's tobacconist would make a capital *King's Counsel*." On being asked "Why?" Harry replied, "Because I never heard a man make so much of a *pannel*."



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*Seria mixta joas*



Debating Society established in Edinburgh, in which he gave promise of that eminence as a pleader which he afterwards attained.

The brilliant talents of Mr. Erskine soon placed him at the head of his profession. His legal services were as much at the command of the poor as of the wealthy, and he gratuitously devoted his abilities in behalf of any individual whom he believed to be ill-used, with greater zeal than if he had been amply remunerated for his exertions. So well was this benevolent trait in his character known, that it was said of him by a poor man who lived in a remote district of Scotland, when a friend would have dissuaded him from entering into a certain lawsuit, "There's no a puir man in a' Scotland need to want a friend or fear an enemy, sae lang as Harry Erskine's to the fore."

During the Coalition Administration Mr. Erskine held the office of Lord Advocate of Scotland. He succeeded Henry Dundas (afterwards Lord Melville). On the morning of the appointment he had an interview with Dundas in the Outer-House; when, observing that the latter gentleman had already resumed the ordinary stuff gown which advocates are in the custom of wearing, he said gaily that he "must leave off talking, to go and order his silk gown" (the official costume of the Lord Advocate and Solicitor-General).—"It is hardly worth while," said Mr. Dundas, drily, "for the time you will want it—you had better borrow mine." Erskine's reply was exceedingly happy—"From the readiness with which you make the offer, Mr. Dundas, I have no doubt that the gown is a gown made to *fit any party*; but however short my time in office may be, it shall ne'er be said of Henry Erskine that he put on the *abandoned habits* of his predecessor." The prediction of Mr. Dundas proved true, however; for Erskine held office only for a very short period, in consequence of a sudden change of Ministry. He was succeeded by Ilay Campbell, Esq., afterwards Lord President of the Court of Session, to whom he said, upon resigning his gown, "My Lord, you must take nothing *off it*, for I'll soon need it again." To which Mr. Campbell replied, "It will be *bare enough*, Harry, before you get it." On the return of the Whigs to power in 1806, Mr. Erskine once more became Lord Advocate, and was at the same time returned member for the Dumfries district of burghs. But this Administration being of short duration, he was again deprived of office.

After a long, laborious, and brilliant professional career, extending over a period of forty-four years, Mr. Erskine retired from public life to his villa of Almondell in West Lothian, where he died on the 8th of October 1817, in the seventy-first year of his age.

In person Mr. Erskine was above the middle size, and eminently handsome. His voice was powerful—his manner of delivery peculiarly graceful—his enunciation accurate and distinct—qualities which greatly added to the effect of his oratory.

Mr. Erskine's first wife (Miss Fullerton) was a lady of somewhat eccentric habits—she not unfrequently employed half of the night in examining the family wardrobe, to see that nothing was missing. On one of these occasions she

awoke her husband in the middle of the night, by putting to him the appalling interrogatory, “Harry, love, where’s your white waistcoat?”<sup>1</sup>

While Mr. Erskine practised at the bar, it was his frequent custom to walk, after the rising of the Court, to the Meadows, and he was often accompanied by Lord Balmuto, one of the judges—a very good kind of man, but not particularly quick in the perception of the ludicrous. His lordship never could discover, at first, the point of Mr. Erskine’s wit, and after walking a mile or two perhaps, and long after Mr. Erskine had forgotten the saying, he would suddenly cry out, “I have you now, Harry—I have you now, Harry!” stopping and bursting into an immoderate fit of laughter.

With all the liveliness of fancy, however, and with all these shining talents, Mr. Erskine’s habits were domestic in an eminent degree. His wishes and desires are pleasingly depicted in the following lines by himself:—

“ Let sparks and topers o’er their bottles sit,  
 Toss bumpers down, and fancy laughter wit ;  
 Let cautious plodders o’er their ledger pore,  
 Note down each farthing gain’d, and wish it more ;  
 Let lawyers dream of wigs, poets of fame,  
 Scholars look learn’d, and senators declaim ;  
 Let soldiers stand, like targets in the fray,  
 Their lives just worth their threepence a-day.  
 Give me a nook in some secluded spot,  
 Which business shuns, and din approaches not—  
 Some snug retreat, where I may never know  
 What Monarch reigns, what Ministers bestow—  
 A book—my slippers—and a field to stroll in—  
 My garden-seat—an elbow-chair to loll in—  
 Sunshine, when wanted—shade, when shade invites—  
 With pleasant country laurels, smells, and sights,  
 And now and then a glass of generous wine,  
 Shared with a chatty friend of ‘auld langsyne ;’  
 And one companion more, for ever nigh,  
 To sympathise in all that passes by,  
 To journey with me in the path of life,  
 And share its pleasures, and divide its strife.  
 These simple joys, Eugenius, let me find,  
 And I’ll ne’er cast a lingering look behind.”

Mr. Erskine was long a member of the Scottish Antiquarian Society. One of the members remarked to him that he was a very bad attender of their meetings, adding, at same time, that he never gave any donations to the Society. A short time afterwards he wrote a letter to the Secretary apologising for not attending the meetings, and stating that he had “inclosed a donation, which, if you keep long enough, will be the greatest curiosity you have!”—This was a guinea of George III.

<sup>1</sup> The relater of this anecdote thus incidentally speaks of his reminiscences of Mr. Erskine, as he appeared in his retreat at Almonddell:—“I recollect the very gray hat that he used to wear, with a bit of the rim torn, and the pepper-and-salt short coat, and the white neckcloth sprinkled with snuff.”

He had an inveterate propensity for puns. A person once said to him that punning was the lowest species of wit, to which he replied, "Then it must be the best species, since it is the *foundation* of the whole."

Mr. Erskine meeting an old friend one morning returning from St. Bernard's Well, which he knew he was in the habit of daily visiting, exclaimed, "Oh, S——e! I see you never weary in *well-doing*."

Being told that Knox, who had long derived his livelihood by keeping the door of the Parliament-House, had been killed by a shot from a small *cannon* on the King's birthday, he observed that "it was remarkable a man should live by the *civil* and die by the *cannon law*."

Lord Kellie was once amusing his company with an account of a sermon he had heard in a church in Italy, in which the priest related the miracle of St. Anthony, when preaching on shipboard, attracting the fishes, which, in order to listen to his pious discourse, held their heads out of the water. "I can well believe the miracle," said Mr. Henry Erskine. "How so?"—"When your lordship was at church, there was at least one fish out of the water."

Mr. Erskine of Alva, a Scotch Advocate, afterwards one of the Senators of the College of Justice, and who assumed the title of Lord Barjarg, a man of diminutive stature, was retained as counsel in a very interesting cause, wherein the Hon. Henry Erskine appeared for the opposite party. The crowd in court being very great, in order to enable young *Alva* to be seen and heard more advantageously, a *chair* was brought him to stand upon. Mr. Erskine quaintly remarked, "That is one way of *rising* at the bar."

An English nobleman, walking through the New Town in company with Mr. Erskine, remarked how odd it was that St. Andrew's Church should so greatly *project*, whilst the Physicians' Hall, immediately opposite, equally *receded*. Mr. Erskine admitted that George Street would have been, without exception, the finest street in Europe, if the *forwardness* of the *clergy*, and the *backwardness* of the *physicians*, had not marred its *uniformity*.

One day Mr. Erskine was dining at the house of Mr. William Creech, bookseller, who was rather penurious, and entertained his guests on that occasion with a single bottle of *Cape wine*, though he boasted of some particularly fine *Madeira wine* he happened to possess. Mr. Erskine made various attempts to induce his host to produce a bottle of his vaunted *Madeira*, but to no purpose; at length he said, with an air of apparent disappointment, "Well, well, since we can't get to *Madeira*, we must just *double the Cape*."

In his latter years Mr. Erskine was very much annoyed at the idea that his witticisms might be collected together in a volume. Aware of this, a friend of his resolved to tease him, and having invited him to dinner, he, in the course of the evening, took up a goodly-looking volume, and, turning over the pages, began to laugh heartily. "What is the cause of your merriment?" exclaimed the guest. "Oh, it's only one of your jokes, Harry."—"Where did you get it?"—"Oh, in the new work just published, entitled *The New Complete Jester*, or

*every man his own Harry Erskine!*" Mr. Erskine felt very much amazed, as may be supposed, upon the announcement of the fictitious publication.

Mr. Erskine was twice married, and by his first marriage he had the present (1837) Earl of Buchan, Major Erskine, and two daughters: one married to the late Colonel Callender of Craigforth, and another to Dr. Smith. By his second wife, Miss Munro (who still survives, 1837), he had no issue.

#### No. LIX.

### JAMES BRUCE, ESQ. OF KINNAIRD, AND PETER WILLIAMSON.

THIS rencontre, which happened only a short time after Mr. Bruce published his travels, is said to have taken place at the Cross of Edinburgh, where the parties represented were seen by Kay in conversation, although he has ingeniously placed them on the hillock alluded to by Mr. Bruce, from whence proceeded the principal fountain of the Nile.

The first figure in the print is JAMES BRUCE of Kinnaird, the Abyssinian traveller. He was born on the 14th December 1730, at Kinnaird in the county of Stirling, and was eldest son of David Bruce of Kinnaird,<sup>1</sup> by Marion, daughter of James Graham of Airth, Judge of the High Court of Admiralty in Scotland.

At the age of eight years, Bruce, who was then rather of a weakly habit and gentle disposition, though afterwards remarkable for robustness of body and boldness of mind, was sent to London to the care of an uncle. Here he remained until he had attained his twelfth year, when he was removed to Harrow, where he won the esteem of his instructors by his amiable temper and extraordinary aptitude for learning. In 1747, he returned to Kinnaird, with the reputation of a first-rate scholar. It having been determined that he should prepare himself for the Bar, he, for that purpose, attended the usual classes in the University of Edinburgh; but finding legal pursuits not suited to his disposition, it was resolved that he should proceed to India. With this intention he went to London in 1753; but while waiting for permission from the East India Company to settle there as a free trader, he became acquainted with Adriana Allan, the daughter of a deceased wine-merchant, whom

<sup>1</sup> This estate was acquired by his grandfather, David Hay of Woodcockdale, who, on marrying Helen Bruce, the heiress of Kinnaird, assumed the name and arms of Bruce. The immediate founder of the Kinnaird family was Robert, the second son of Sir Alexander Bruce of Airth, by a daughter of the fifth Lord Livingston, who became one of the most zealous ministers of the Reformed Church of Scotland, was much in the confidence of James the Sixth, and had the honour of placing the crown on the head of his Queen on her arrival from Denmark.

Travells Eldest Son in Conversation with a Cherokee Chief.



*How dare you approach me with your travells. There is not a single word of them true  
There you may be right, and altho' I never dined upon the Lion or eat half a Cow and turned  
the rest to geals, yet my works have been of more use to mankind than yours,  
and there is more truth in one page of my Edin<sup>r</sup> directory than in all your five  
Volumes A<sup>o</sup>. So when you talk to me dont imagine yourself at the Sincere of the Nib!*



he married, and abandoning the idea of India, embarked in the excellent business left by his father-in-law. The death of his wife, however, which took place soon after their marriage, at Paris, whither he had taken her for the recovery of her health, again altered Bruce's destiny. Deeply affected by her loss, he first devolved the cares of his business on his partner, and soon afterwards withdrew from the concern altogether.

Some time subsequent to these occurrences, Bruce had become acquainted with Lord Halifax, who suggested to him that his talents might be successfully exerted in making discoveries in Africa; and, to give him every facility, his Lordship proposed to appoint him consul at Algiers. He repaired to his post in 1763, where he employed himself a year in the study of the Oriental languages; and this appointment was the first step to the discovery of the source of the Nile.

As our readers must be familiar with the perilous adventures of this traveller, as depicted by himself in one of the most entertaining works in our language, it would be altogether idle to attempt any abridgment of them. After many hair-breadth escapes, and overcoming many difficulties both by sea and land, Bruce returned in safety to Marseilles in March 1773, and was received with marked consideration at the French court.<sup>1</sup>

On his arrival in Great Britain he had an audience of George the Third, to whom he presented drawings of Palmyra, Baalbec, and other cities, with which he had promised to furnish his Majesty previous to his departure. It had been insinuated that Mr. Bruce was an indifferent draughtsman, and that the drawings which he had brought home were not done by himself, but by the artist he had taken along with him. This charge was perfectly untrue, although it derived some countenance from his declining to comply with a request of the King, that he should draw Kew. When he had submitted the above-mentioned draughts, his majesty said, "Very well, very well, Bruce; the colours are fine, very fine—you must make me one—yes; you must make me one of Kew!" Bruce evaded compliance by saying, "I would with the greatest pleasure obey your Majesty, but here I cannot get such colours."

It was not until seventeen years after his return to Europe, that he gave that work to the world which has perpetuated his name. It appeared in 1790, and consisted of four large quarto volumes, besides a volume of illustrations, and was entitled, "Travels to Discover the Source of the Nile, in the years 1768-69-70-71-72-73. By James Bruce of Kinnaird, Esq., F.R.S."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> There is in the museum at Kinnaird a very fine quadrant, with an inscription, as a present from the King of France. Mr. Bruce retained such a strong remembrance of the kindness shown him by Louis XVI., that when he heard of the King's tragical end, in January 1793, his feelings were so much overpowered that he cried like a child.

<sup>2</sup> The long interval that elapsed between the period of his return and the publication of his travels had induced many people to pretend that he had nothing worth while communicating to the world. This malicious report was mentioned to him by a friend. He replied, "James, let them say, as my maternal grand-aunt said. You have," continued he, "no doubt seen that inscription upon Airth—are you acquainted with its origin?"—"No," was the rejoinder. "Then," said he, "I'll tell you. My grand-uncle was amongst others a great sufferer during the Usurpation, and, owing to his adherence to the Stuarts, was obliged to fly to Sweden. His wife, by her judicious

The singular incidents detailed in these Travels—the habits of life there described, so totally unlike anything previously known in Europe—and the style of romantic adventure which characterised the work—led many persons to distrust its authenticity, and even to doubt whether its author ever had been in Abyssinia at all. Those doubts found their way into the critical journals of the day,<sup>1</sup> but the proud spirit of Bruce disdained to make any reply. To his daughter alone he opened his heart on this vexatious subject; and to her he often said, “The world is strangely mistaken in my character, by supposing that I would condescend to write a romance for its amusement. I shall not live to witness it; but you probably will see the truth of all I have written completely and decisively confirmed.”

So it has happened. Recent travellers have established the authenticity of Bruce beyond cavil or dispute. Dr. Clark, in particular, states, in the sixth volume of his Travels, that he and some other men of science, when at Cairo, examined an ancient Abyssinian priest—who perfectly recollected Bruce at the court of Gondar—on various disputed passages of the work, which were confirmed even in the most minute particular; and he concludes this curious investigation by observing, that he scarcely believes any other book of travels could have stood such a test. Sir David Baird, while commanding the British troops embarked on the Red Sea, publicly declared that the safety of the army was mainly owing to the accuracy of Mr. Bruce’s chart of that sea, which some of the critics of the day ventured to insinuate he had never visited. On this subject Bruce is strikingly corroborated by that well-known traveller, Lieutenant Burnes. In a letter written from the Red Sea, so lately as 1835, he says—“I cannot quit Bruce without mentioning a fact which I have gathered here, and which ought to be known far and wide in justice to the memory of a great and injured man, whose deeds I admired when a boy, and whose book is a *true* romance. Lord Valentia calls Bruce’s voyage to the Red Sea an episodical fiction, because he is wrong in the latitude of an island called ‘Macowar,’ which Bruce says he had visited. Now this sea has been surveyed for the first time, and there are two islands called ‘Macowar,’ the one in latitude 23° 50' *visited by Bruce*, and the other in latitude 20° 45', visited by Valentia! Only think of this vindication of Bruce’s memory! Major Head knew it not when he wrote his *Life*, and it is worth a thousand pages of defence.”

The following rather amusing anecdote is told of Bruce:—It is said that once, when on a visit to a relative in East-Lothian, a person present observed it was “*impossible*” that the natives of Abyssinia could eat raw meat. Bruce very quietly left the room, and shortly afterwards returned from the kitchen with management, and by carrying on a small trade in the coal line, made a considerable fortune, and built the wing of the house at Airth, now standing. Some evil-minded persons chose to insinuate that she had acquired this fortune in a way not very creditable to her chastity. Treating this slander with the contempt it merited, she, with conscious innocence, caused the inscription of ‘*let them say*,’ to be placed over the door.”

<sup>1</sup> The amusing “Adventures of Baron Munchausen” were written purposely in ridicule of him, and were received by the public as a just satire on his work.

a raw beef-steak, peppered and salted in the Abyssinian fashion. “ You will be pleased to eat this,” he said, “ or fight me.” The gentleman preferred the former alternative, and with no good grace contrived to swallow the professed delicacy. When he had finished, Bruce calmly observed, “ Now, sir, you will never again say it is *impossible*.”

Bruce was a man of uncommonly large stature, six feet four inches, and latterly very corpulent. With a turban on his head, and a long staff in his hand, he usually travelled about his grounds ; and his gigantic figure in these excursions is still remembered in the neighbourhood. On the 20th of May 1776, he took as his second wife, Mary, daughter of Thomas Dundas of Fingask, by Lady Janet Maitland, daughter of Charles sixth Earl of Lauderdale.

On the 26th of April 1794, after entertaining a large party to dinner, as he was hurrying to assist a lady to her carriage, his foot slipped, and he fell headlong from the sixth or seventh step of the large staircase to the lobby. He was taken up in a state of insensibility, though without any visible contusion, and died early next morning, in the sixty-fourth year of his age.

Thus he who had undergone such dangers, and was placed often in such imminent peril, lost his life by an accidental fall. He left, by his second marriage, a son and a daughter. His son succeeded him in his paternal estate, and died in 1810, leaving an only daughter, who married Charles Cumming of Roseilse, a younger son of the family of Altyre, who assumed the name of Bruce, and is presently (1837) member of Parliament for the Inverness district of burghs. His daughter, who survived him many years, became the wife of John Jardine, Esq., advocate, sheriff of Ross and Cromarty.

Bruce took with him in his travels a telescope so large that it required six men to carry it. He assigned the following reason to a friend by whom the anecdote was communicated :—“ That, exclusive of its utility, it inspired the nations through which he passed with great awe, as they thought he had some immediate connection with Heaven, and they paid more attention to it than they did to himself.”

PETER WILLIAMSON, the second figure in this Print was born of poor parents at Hirnley, in the parish of Aboyne, county of Aberdeen, North Britain. When still very young he was sent to reside with an aunt in Aberdeen, as he tells us in his autobiography,<sup>1</sup> “ where, at eight years of age, playing one day on the quay with others of my companions, I was taken notice of by two fellows belonging to a vessel in the harbour, employed, as the trade then was, by some of the worthy merchants of the town, in that villainous and execrable practice called kidnapping, that is, stealing young children from their parents, and selling them as slaves in the plantations abroad. Being marked out by these monsters as their prey, I was cajoled on board the ship by them, where

<sup>1</sup> *Vide* “ French and Indian Cruelty, exemplified in the Life and various Vicissitudes of Fortune of Peter Williamson, etc., dedicated to the Right Hon. William Pitt, Esq. Written by himself. Third edition, with considerable Improvements. Glasgow : printed by J. Bryce and D. Paterson, for the benefit of the unfortunate Author, 1758.”

I was no sooner got than they conducted me between the decks to some others they had kidnapped in the same manner."

Neither Williamson nor any of his fellow-captives were permitted again to get on deck, and in about a month afterwards the ship sailed for America. On arriving on the coast of that country she was assailed by a storm, and driven in the middle of the night on a sand-bank off Cape May, near the Cape of Delaware, and in a short time filled with water. The ruffian crew, hoisting out their boats, made their escape to land, leaving the poor boys to their fate in the vessel. Fortunately, she held together till the following morning, when the Captain sent some of his men on board to bring the boys, and as much of the cargo as they could, on shore, where Williamson and his fellow-captives remained in a sort of camp for three weeks, when they were taken to Philadelphia, and there sold at about £16 per head. Williamson was separated from his companions, and from this time never heard any more of them. He was himself fortunate enough to fall into the hands of an excellent master, a humane and worthy man. This person was a countryman of his own of the name of Wilson, from Perth, who had himself been kidnapped in his youth. With this man Williamson lived very happily, and much at his ease, till the death of the former, which occurred a few years afterwards, when he was left by him, as a reward for his faithful services, the sum of £120 in money, his best horse, saddle, and all his wearing-apparel.

Our hero, who was only in his seventeenth year, being now his own master, employed himself in such country work as offered for the succeeding seven years, when, thinking he had acquired sufficient means to enable him to settle respectably in life, he married a daughter of a substantial planter, and was presented by his father-in-law with a deed of gift of a tract of land, comprising about 200 acres, situated on the frontiers of the province of Pennsylvania.

On this property there was a good house, which he furnished; and having stocked his farm, he sat down with the prospect of leading a peaceable and happy life—but these prospects were soon destroyed. As Williamson was sitting up one night later than usual, expecting the return of his wife, who had gone on a visit to her relations, he was suddenly alarmed by hearing the well-known and fatal war-whoop of the Indians. These dreadful sounds proceeded from a party of savages, to the number of twelve, who had surrounded his house for the purpose of robbery and murder. On hearing the ominous cry, Williamson seized a loaded gun, and at first endeavoured to scare away his horrible assailants, who were now attempting to beat in the door, by threatening to fire on them. But heedless of his menaces, and in their turn threatening to set fire to his house and burn him alive if he did not instantly surrender, he at length yielded, and, on promise of having his life spared, came out as they desired. Having got the unfortunate man into their power, the savages bound him to a tree, near his own door, plundered his house, and then set it on fire, together with his out-houses, barns, and stables, consuming all his grain, cattle, horses, and sheep; and thus, almost instantaneously, reducing him from a state of independence and comfort to one of beggary and misery. Having completed their diabolical work,

one of the savages, advancing with uplifted tomahawk, threatened him with instant death if he did not cheerfully and willingly accompany them. Having consented to what he could not resist, they untied him, and loading him with the plunder of his own house, set off on their march homeward.

At daybreak, after having travelled all night, the savages ordered Williamson to lay down his load, when they again tied him to a tree by the hands, and so tightly, that the small cord with which he was bound forced the blood from his finger-ends. The wretches then kindled a fire close by their victim, who had no doubt that it was intended to roast him alive, and began dancing around him with the most hideous yells and gestures. Having satisfied themselves with this pastime, they each snatched a stick from the fire, and began to apply their burning ends to various parts of his body, causing him the greatest torture. Of this cruelty they at length tired, and unbinding the wretched captive, gave him a portion of some victuals which they had hastily cooked. They then again fastened him to a tree, to which they kept him bound till night, when they resumed their march, loading him with their booty as before. The savages now proceeded towards the Blue Hills, where, having hid their plunder, they attacked the house of a settler named Snider ; and having found admission, they scalped himself, his wife, and five children, and finally set fire to their dwelling, having previously plundered it. The only individual spared was a young man, a servant in the house, who they thought might be useful to them. Having perpetrated this atrocious deed, they loaded Williamson and the young man, whose life they had spared, with their booty, and again directed their steps towards the Blue Hills.

During this march Williamson's companion in misfortune continuing, notwithstanding all the former could say to him, to bemoan his situation so loudly as to attract the notice of the savages, one of them came up to him, and struck the unhappy young man a blow on the head with his tomahawk, which instantly killed him. They then scalped him, and left him where he fell.

The savages next proceeded to the house of another settler named Adams, where they perpetrated similar atrocities, murdering his wife and four children, burning his house, corn, hay, and cattle. Adams himself, however, a feeble old man, they reserved for further cruelties. Having loaded him with the plunder of his own house, he was marched along with them, and on their arriving at the Great Swamp, where they remained for eight or nine days, was subjected to every species of torture which savage ingenuity could suggest. At one time they amused themselves by pulling the old man's beard out by the root ; at another, by tying him to a tree and flogging him with great severity ; and again, scorching his face and legs with red-hot coals. While in this encampment, the savages with whom Williamson was captive were joined by another party, who brought along with them three prisoners and twenty scalps.

These unhappy men, who gave Williamson and his companion in misfortune, Adams, the most shocking accounts of the barbarities that had been practised by the party into whose hands they had fallen, having subsequently attempted to escape, were retaken, and put to the most cruel deaths.

From their present quarters the savages, still carrying Williamson along with them, proceeded two hundred miles farther into the interior, where their wigwams, wives, and children were. Here Williamson was detained for two months, suffering severely from cold and hunger, as the Indians paid no attention to his comforts, but left him to shift for himself as he best could, always taking care, however, that he should not escape them. At length another expedition against the whites having been determined on, the Indians, who, by various additions to their numbers, now amounted to about 150, began their march, taking Williamson along with them towards the back parts of the province of Pennsylvania.

On arriving at the Blue Hills, Williamson was left there with ten Indians, it not being deemed safe to take him nearer the plantations, to await the return of the main body. Here Williamson began to meditate an escape, and watching an opportunity one night when his guard were asleep, having previously assured himself that they were so, by gently touching their feet as they lay around the fire, he softly withdrew, after having vainly attempted to possess himself of one of their guns, which they always kept beneath their heads when they slept. Williamson's terror was so great lest he should be discovered, that he stopped as he was retreating every four or five paces, and looked fearfully towards the spot where his savage masters were lying; seeing, however, no motion amongst them, he gradually mended his pace, and had gained a considerable distance, when he suddenly heard the war-cry of the savages, who had missed their captive, and were now in pursuit of him.

The terror of Williamson, on hearing these appalling sounds, increased his speed. He rushed wildly on through woods and over rocks, falling and bruising himself severely, and cutting his feet and legs in a miserable manner; but he eventually succeeded in eluding the vigilance of his pursuers. Continuing his flight until daybreak, he then crept into the hollow of a tree, but was here again alarmed by hearing the voices of the savages in his immediate vicinity, loudly talking of how they should treat him if he again fell into their hands. They, however, did not discover him, and soon after left the spot.

Williamson remained in his concealment till nightfall, when he again set out on his perilous journey, hiding himself in trees by day, and prosecuting his march by night. On one occasion during his route, he unknowingly approached so near a bivouac of savages, that the rustling he made amongst the trees alarmed them, when, starting from the ground and seizing their arms, they began to search round for the cause of the noise they had heard. Fortunately for Williamson, who stood stock-still, petrified with fear, a herd of wild swine at this critical moment made their appearance near the spot, when the savages thinking that they had been the cause of their alarm, gave up their search and returned to their fire. On observing this, Williamson recommenced his journey, and finally arrived in safety at his father-in-law's, on the 4th January 1755, where he learned that his wife had died two months before.

Soon after his arrival, Williamson was called before the State Assembly, then

sitting at Philadelphia discussing measures for checking the depredations of the savages, to communicate such intelligence regarding them as his experience had put him in possession of, and ultimately entered himself a volunteer in one of the regiments raised to serve against the French and Indians.

In this service, during which he was engaged in numerous skirmishes, he remained three years, having previously obtained the rank of Lieutenant, when he was taken prisoner by the French on the surrender of Oswego, marched to Quebec with other prisoners, and there embarked, according to stipulation, on board the *La Renommé*, a French packet-boat, for Plymouth, where he arrived on the 6th of November 1756. In about five months after, Williamson, with a party who had been quartered with him at Kingsbridge, were ordered to Plymouth Dock to be drafted into other regiments, but on being inspected he was found unfit for service, in consequence of a wound he had received in one of his hands, and was discharged.

On receiving his discharge, Williamson, who was now entirely destitute of means, being possessed of no more than six shillings, which had been allowed by Government to carry him home, proceeded to York. He there submitted the manuscript of his adventures amongst the Indians to some benevolent persons, who recommended its publication, and having by this means raised a little money, he set out for Aberdeen, where he arrived in June 1758. But although now in his native place, his misfortunes had not yet terminated.

The little volume of his adventures, which he had published at York, contained some reflections on the characters of the merchants of Aberdeen, implicating them in the practice of kidnapping, of which Williamson had himself been a victim. He had no sooner offered the work for sale in the traduced city, than he was called before the magistrates to answer to a complaint of libel on the character and reputation of the merchants of Aberdeen; and he was ordered to sign a recantation of what they called his calumnies, on pain of imprisonment, and was appointed to find caution to stand trial on the complaint, at any time when called for, and to be confined in jail till performance.

To this judgment was added an order that all his books should be forthwith lodged in the clerk's chamber. His books were accordingly seized, the offensive leaves cut out and burned at the market-cross by the hands of the common hangman. Williamson was subsequently amerced in the sum of ten shillings, and finally banished the city as a vagrant.

By the advice and assistance of some friends, however, he afterwards raised a process of oppression and damages against the magistrates of Aberdeen before the Court of Session, and ultimately obtained damages to the amount of £100, with all the costs of process.

Previously to his obtaining this judgment, Williamson had settled in Edinburgh, where he first kept a tavern,<sup>1</sup> then became a bookseller, printer, publisher, and projector. He appears some time before this to have published in York,

<sup>1</sup> Peter's tavern, or coffee-house, was situated in the Old Parliament Close. On his sign-board he designated himself "from the other world."

“ Some Considerations on the present State of Affairs ; wherein the defenceless situation of Great Britain is pointed out, and an easy, rational, and just scheme for its security at this dangerous crisis proposed in a Militia, formed on an equal plan, that can neither be oppressive to the poor nor offensive to the rich, as practised by some of his Majesty’s colonies abroad, etc. York : printed for the author, and sold by all the booksellers in town, 1758 ;” 8vo. Pp. 56.

In 1762, he addressed the following letter to the Printers of the *Edinburgh Evening Courant* :—

“ As the scarcity of hands on account of the present war, and, of consequence, the great increase of the price of labour, have been for some time a most general complaint in this much depopulated country, that person must surely deserve well of the public who shall discover a method to supply the one, and reduce the other. Now the season is approaching which is appointed by Providence to crown the labours of the year, and in which the industrious farmer hopes to reap the fruits of his toil. This penury of hands, in a climate so variable as Scotland, may soon be felt in the severest manner. The high prices of grain, and the prospect of a plentiful crop, are certainly very urgent motives for embracing every means that may facilitate the cutting down of the corns with speed and safety. It is with a view to remedy, in a great measure, this universal complaint that I communicate, through the channel of your paper, my having, at a considerable expense, invented a machine, which I am able to demonstrate will, in the hands of a single man, do more execution in a field of oats in one day, and to better purpose, than it is in the power of six shearers to do. This machine is now completed, and is constructed in such a manner, that where the corn is tolerably thick, it will cut down near a sheaf at a stroke, and that without shaking the grain or disordering the straw, besides laying down the corn as regularly as the most expert shearer is capable to do. It is attended with another advantage, that the sun in a short time will so dry the grass and weeds, as well as win the straw and corn, that it may be fit either for putting into the stack or carrying into the barn. It is not from any principle of vanity or conceit that I have expatiated on the properties of this machine. My sole aim by this letter is to intimate my invention to the honourable society for the encouragement of arts, sciences, etc., to any of whom I am ready to show the machine ; and, if they should think proper, give them ocular demonstrations of its answering the purposes intended, by my own hands. At the same time, if they shall approve of it, and be of opinion that it may in a great degree contribute to remove the grievance complained of, I have reason to hope that the Society will not withhold a suitable encouragement for the invention. In that event, I propose, for a moderate premium, to instruct any overseer, or principal servant on a farm, how to handle the machine, so that he may, with his own hands, cut down several acres of corn in a day. I am, Gentlemen, yours, etc.

“ July 1762.

“ Author of a book entitled, ‘ French and Indian Cruelty, exemplified in

“ PETER WILLIAMSON,

the Life and various vicissitudes of Fortune of the said Peter Williamson, who was carried off from Aberdeen in his infancy, and sold as a Slave in Pennsylvania. Containing the History of the Author's Adventures in North America; his Captivity among the Indians, etc. To which is added, an Account of the Proceedings of the Magistrates of Aberdeen against him, on his return to Scotland: a brief History of the Process against them before the Court of Session; and a short Dissertation on Kidnapping. Sold by the Author, at his shop in the Parliament House, and the other Booksellers in town and country, price 1s. 6d. sewed, and 2s. bound. This book is illustrated with a new and correct whole sheet Map of America; likewise adorned with a fine copperplate frontispiece, representing the Author in the habit of a Delaware Indian.<sup>1</sup> Commissions from the country will be punctually answered for this and all other sorts of books; as also stationery ware of all sorts. Where is likewise to be had, a 'General View of the whole World; containing the names of the principal Countries, Kingdoms, States, and Islands; their Length, Breadth, and Capital Cities, with the Longitude and Latitude; also, the Produce, Revenue, Strength, and Religion of each Country, price 6d.'

An engraving of this "machine" is given in one of the magazines of the day. It is now in use under the name of a basket scythe.

The following advertisement by Peter (April 9, 1772), is amusing enough: "This day was published, price one shilling the pack, and sold by Peter Williamson, printer, in the head of Forrester's Wynd, Edinburgh, the IMPENETRABLE SECRETS, which is called the PROVERB CARDS; containing excellent Sentiment, and are so composed that they discover the thoughts of one's mind in a very curious and extraordinary manner. The explanation of the secret is given gratis with the pack: each set consists of twenty cards, and ten lines upon each card." He at same time announces his "new invented portable printing-presses," by which two folio pages may be printed with the greatest expedition and exactness. Next follow his stamps, and liquid for marking linen, books, etc., "which stands washing, boiling, and bleaching, and is more regular and beautiful than any needle." He concludes by intimating that he has a large and commodious tavern to let.

In the year 1776 Williamson engaged in a periodical work, after the manner of the *Tatler* and *Spectator*, called *The Scots Spy, or Critical Observer*, published every Friday. Complete copies of this curious production, which forms a volume of upwards of three hundred pages, are now very rare. It is chiefly valuable for local information, although some of the papers are by no means deficient in merit. It commences on the 8th of March 1776 and terminates on the 30th August following. In 1777 (August 29), he began *The New Scots Spy, or Critical Observer*, which, having met with less patronage than its predecessor, was abandoned on the 14th November following. This latter volume is also very scarce.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The late Mr. Archibald Constable, who thought all "his geese were swans," had both works, which he valued at five guineas !

In the month of November 1777 he married Jean Wilson, daughter of John Wilson, bookseller in Edinburgh, a connection which, as will immediately be seen, turned out to be a very unfortunate one.

Williamson had the merit of establishing the first Penny-Post in Edinburgh. He also published a Directory, "which he sold at his General Penny-Post Office, Luckenbooths." The copy before us, for 1788, is dedicated to the Lord Provost and Magistrates of Edinburgh ; and the following dedicatory epistle is prefixed :—

"**MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN**—At the earnest request of a respectable part of the inhabitants of Edinburgh, I have been induced once more to make an actual survey of the city and its much-extended suburbs, and to publish a Directory for the present year.

"The patronage I have always received from the Magistrates of Edinburgh I acknowledge with gratitude ; and I flatter myself they will approve of the present publication.

"That the city may flourish to the remotest ages—that the noble efforts made by the present Chief Magistrate for its embellishment, the convenience of its inhabitants, and for the desirable object of making the port and harbour of Leith (so intimately connected with the city) more extensive and commodious for trade, may be crowned with success—is the sincere wish of,

" My LORDS and GENTLEMEN,

" Your most obedient humble servant,

" P. WILLIAMSON."

At this period his wife and daughter appear to have contributed their assistance to the maintenance of the family, as the following notice is printed on the cover of the Directory :—

" MRS. WILLIAMSON AND DAUGHTER,

at their House, first fore stair above the head of Byres's Close, Luckenbooths, Engraft Silk, Cotton, Thread, and Worsted Stockings, make Silk Gloves, and every article in the engraving branch, in the neatest manner, and on the most reasonable terms ; likewise Silk Stockings washed in the most approved stile ; also Grave Cloaths made on the shortest notice.

"*N.B.*—Mantua-Making carried on in all its branches as formerly. Orders given in at P. Williamson's General Penny-Post Office, Luckenbooths, will be punctually attended to."

From a process of divorce which he instituted in the year 1789 against his wife, and in which he was successful, it appears that but for the gross misbehaviour of the former, he might have attained pretty easy circumstances.

The Procurator for the defender, in the case just alluded to, represents his





J. & C. 1789

Courtship

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Penny-post as being a very lucrative business, bringing him in ready money every hour of the day, and employing four men to distribute the letters at four shillings and sixpence weekly each.

In his replies Williamson alleges that his income was but trifling ; that his Directory paid him very poorly ; and that his wife robbed him of three-fourths of the profit of the post. In corroboration of this state of his finances, he pursued the divorce, as a litigant, on the poors' roll.

It may be added that the opposing party hinted at Peter's having acquired tippling habits ; but it is impossible to attach any credit to a statement evidently made for the purpose of creating a prejudice in the minds of the judges against him.<sup>1</sup>

The following notice of his death occurs in a newspaper of the period, 19th January 1799 :—

" At Edinburgh, Mr. Peter Williamson, well known for his various adventures through life. He was kidnapped when a boy at Aberdeen, and sent to America, for which he afterwards recovered damages. He passed a considerable time among the Cherokees, and on his return to Edinburgh amused the public with a description of their manners and customs, and his adventures among them, assuming the dress of one of their chiefs, imitating the war-whoop, etc. He had the merit of first instituting a Penny-post in Edinburgh, for which, when it was assumed by Government, he received a pension. He also was the first who published a Directory, so essentially useful in a large city."

From the intimation that he received a pension from Government, we should hope the latter days of this very enterprising and singular person were not embittered by penury.

#### No. LX.

### COURTSHIP.

THIS Print is probably a fancy piece, yet there are some circumstances connected with it which might induce a different belief. Kay at the time was courting his second wife, to whom he presented a copy of the caricature, which she rejected with displeasure, although, as has been naively remarked, "she afterwards accepted *a more valuable one*" in the person of the limner himself. The gentleman with the singularly open countenance does possess in a slight degree the *contour* of the artist ; but the "charming creature," with whom he seems so much captivated, cannot be considered as approaching even to a caricature of the late Mrs. Kay. A friend informs us that the female figure very strongly resembles an old woman who lived at the head of the Canongate.

<sup>1</sup> Williamson was very polite. A correspondent mentions "that when a letter was taken to his house to be delivered by his Penny-post runners, he always made a most obsequious bow, adding, 'Many thanks to you, Sir.'"

No. LXI.

MR. WILLIAM MARTIN,

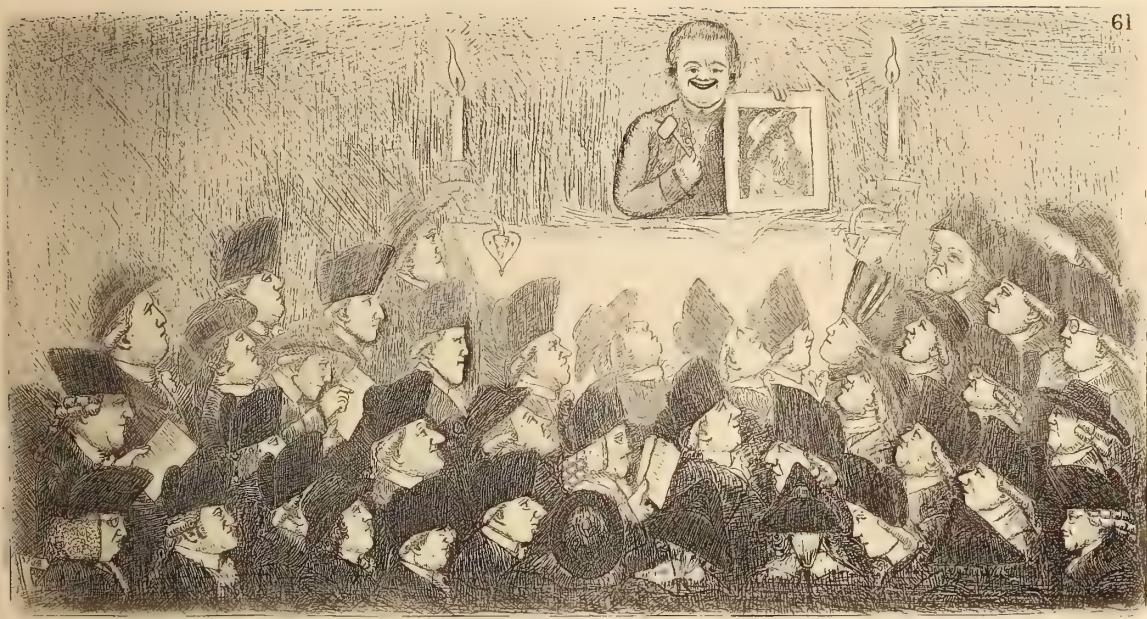
BOOKSELLER AND AUCTIONEER IN EDINBURGH.

MR. MARTIN, who was well known and extensively patronised in his profession, is here represented in the attitude of disposing of a picture, surrounded by an audience of literary gentlemen, connoisseurs in the fine arts. The heads are all likenesses of characters elsewhere sketched by Kay, and will be easily distinguished by the reader as the succeeding numbers of the Portraits appear.

Martin, or “Bibles,” as he was commonly called, is supposed to have been born at or near Airdrie, about the year 1744;<sup>1</sup> and like his contemporary, Lackington of London, was originally bred a shoemaker. For several years after he came to Edinburgh, Martin occupied a small shop in the High Street, near the head of the West Bow, where he combined the two very opposite professions of bookseller and cobbler. He also frequented the country towns around Edinburgh on fairs and other market-days, exposing his small stock of books for sale; and, by dint of great perseverance and industry, was soon able to withdraw his allegiance from Crispin altogether, and to devote the whole of his attention to the sale of books.

It is uncertain at what period Martin came to Edinburgh. His burgess-ticket is dated 1786—but he must have been well established in business many years previously. From a letter of condolence written by him to the widow of his brother, who died in America, he appears to have been in thriving circumstances so early as 1782. He says, “The awfully sudden and unfortunate death of my brother—the helpless situation in which you were left, and so many fatherless children—situate in a country surrounded with war and devastation, my thoughts thereupon may be more easily conceived than described. \* \* \* My uneasiness has been much increased by the thoughts of the boy coming to me, that I might receive him safely, and that he might escape the dangers of so long a voyage. Indeed it has been the will of Providence to take all my children from me, and my intention is to adopt him (his nephew) as my own son. My situation in business I have no cause to complain of. I have a shop in the bookselling way in the Lawnmarket of Edinburgh, to which occupation I mean to put William, my namesake, and in which I hope he will do very well. I will give him the best education, and he shall be as well clothed as myself. \* \* \* My wife has been very much indisposed for some time past, and is not yet much better. She is most anxious about William, and wishes much to see him, from which you may conclude his arrival would make us both very happy.”

<sup>1</sup> He used to boast that he was in *arms* during the Rebellion 1745.





The letter from which the foregoing extract is taken is dated June 2, 1782, and directed to "Mrs. Martin, relict of Captain Martin, to the care of Mr. William Pagan, merchant, New York." The nephew, for whom he expresses so much anxiety, arrived safe in Scotland, and continued with him for several years, but returning to America, died not long after. His wife, also, whose bad health he mentions, did not long survive.

Amid these severe domestic afflictions, Martin's business continued to flourish. Finding his old place of business too small, he removed to more commodious apartments in Gourlay's Land, Old Bank Close, in one of the large rooms of which he held his auction-mart. Here he seems to have been eminently successful. In 1789 he purchased these premises from the trustee for the creditors of the well-known William Brodie, cabinet-maker; and in 1792 the fame of his prosperity was so great as to attract the notice of a perpetrator of verses, of the name of Galloway, by whom he is associated with "King Lackington" of London, in the following *immortal epistle*:<sup>1</sup>

"To MESSRS. LACKINGTON AND MARTIN, BOOKSELLERS."

" Honour and fame from no condition rise,  
Act well thy part, there all thy honour lies."—POPE.

" While booksellers jog in *Newmarket haste*,  
Racing with Crispins for the bankrupt list ;  
Hail ! then, King LACKINGTON, and brother MARTIN,  
Fate's doom'd thee to survive the wreck for certain.  
When you relinquished being *shoe-retailers*,  
You shunn'd the dangerous rocks of leather-dealers ;  
Now, now, your BURNS, your MORRISES, and PINDARS,  
The product of their brain to you surrenders.  
For which, *one word*, you've often sworn and said it,  
You utterly abhor what *fools give—credit*?  
Thus, you're the blades who can extract the honey,  
For all your creed's in two words, '*ready money*.'  
Now *eunuch-built*<sup>2</sup> booksellers all conivell,  
And with thee tumbled headlong to the devil.  
Sell, brother Crispins, sell (and spurn their clamour),  
Quick as your *welt-eye*, or the auction hammer ;  
While authors write, till eyes drop from their sockets,

<sup>1</sup> The subject of this exquisite effort of genius will be sufficient apology for its insertion. The author, GEORGE GALLOWAY, was born in Scotland on the 11th of October 1757. He was bred a mechanic—they turned musician—next went to sea, and was taken prisoner by the Spaniards. After a lapse of many years he returned to London, and there set about courting the Muses, having been rendered unfit for mechanical labour, owing to weakness of vision caused by long confinement abroad. While living in the capital he produced material for the volume from which the epistle is selected. In justice to George, we must say that his address to "Lackington and brother Martin" is the worst in the collection. He was the author of two plays, "*The Admirable Crichton; a tragedy in five acts*. Edin. 1802, 12mo.;" and "*The Battle of Luncarty, or the Valiant Hays triumphant over the Danish Invaders; a drama in five acts*. Edin. 1804, 12mo."—the perusal of which will afford a treat to those who have any perception of the ludicrous. The last production from his pen that we have seen is an "*Elegy on the Death of Henry Duke of Buccleuch*. Edin. 1812, 8vo.;" which is stated "to be printed for and sold by the Author."

<sup>2</sup> A vulgar allusion to Bailie Creech.

Racking their brain for gold to line your pockets.  
 Since Heav'n has cut and form'd thee out for gain,  
 And fate has fixed thee in the *richest vain* ;  
 Led by Dame Fortune, that blind fickle b——h,  
 Who's smit you with the whilie silver itch,  
 Selling what hungry authors coin in heaps,  
 Supporting printers' presses, and their types.  
 Now since you've rais'd yourselves by your own *merit*,  
*Deil take them who envy what you inherit.*"

About 1793 Mr. Martin sold his premises in Gourlay's Land to the Bank of Scotland, when he removed to 94 South Bridge, where he continued for a number of years. Not long after this he bought the Golf-House, at the east end of Bruntsfield Links, as a private residence, where he resided for several years. In 1806 Martin moved to No. 2 Lothian Street, but in a year or two after retired altogether from business, and died in the month of February 1820, nearly eighty years of age.

He was twice married, and by his first wife had several children; but as he mentions himself, in the letter already alluded to, they died in infancy. His second wife (to whom he was married in December 1788) was a Miss Katherine Robertson, daughter of Mr. Robertson, schoolmaster in Ayr. She had a brother many years surgeon in the 42d Highlanders. Mrs. Martin survived her husband about seven years; and at her death his nephews in America received a sum equal to the half of his estate, and her brother received the remainder.

While in his auction-room, Martin was full of anecdote and humour, but somewhat fond of laughing at his own jokes. "He is apt," says Mr. Kay, "to grin and laugh at his own jests, and the higher that prices are bid for his prints, the more he is observed to laugh and the wider to grin." Martin (nothing to his discredit, considering his humble origin), was somewhat illiterate—at least he was no classical scholar—and perhaps in the course of his business he frequently suffered by his ignorance of the dead languages.<sup>1</sup> If the book he was about to sell happened to be Greek, his usual introduction was—"Here comes *craw-taes*, or whatever else you like to call it;" and on other occasions, if the volume happened to be in a more modern language, but the title of which he was as little able to read, he would say to the students, after a blundering attempt, "Gentlemen, I am rather rusty in my French, but were it *Hebrew*, *ye ken* I would be quite at hame!"<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Owing to ignorance, he sold many valuable Greek and Latin books for mere trifles. Sometimes when at a loss to read the title of a Latin or French book, he would, if he could find a young student near him, thrust the book before him, saying, "Read that, my man; it's sae lang since I was at the College I hae forgotten a' my Latin."

<sup>2</sup> Having one night made even a more blundering attempt than usual to unriddle the title of a French book, a young dandy, wishing to have another laugh at Martin's expense, desired him to read the title of the book again, as he did not know what it was about. "Why," said Martin, "it's something about *manners*, and that's what neither you nor me has ower muckle o'."

Martin, however, was certainly more "at hame" in some instances than he was either in French, Latin, Greek, or Hebrew. On one occasion, at the time *Manfredo* was performing in Edinburgh, Martin, in the course of his night's labour, came across the "Life of Robinson Crusoe." Holding up the volume, and pointing to the picture of Robinson's man *Friday*, he exclaims, "Weel, gentlemen, what will ye gie me for my *Man-Fredo!*—worth a dozen o' the Italian land-louper." *Manfredo*, who happened to be present, became exceedingly wroth at this allusion to him. "Vat do you say about *Manfredo?* Call *me* de land-loupeur!" Nothing disconcerted by this unexpected attack, Martin, again holding up the picture replied—"I'll refer to the company if my *Man-Fredo* is no worth a dozen o' him!" The Italian fumed and fretted, but, amidst the general laughter, was obliged to retire.

In these days "rockings" in the country, and parties in the town, were very frequent. On such occasions the auctioneer was wont to be extremely merry, and seldom failed to recite in his best style "The Edinburgh Buck," by Robert Fergusson. He used also to sing tolerably well the ballad of "Duncan Gray." This seldom failed to be forthcoming—more particularly when a tea-party surrounded his own fireside. In this there was perhaps a little touch of domestic pride—at least the second Mrs. Martin always thought so. During courtship some trifling misunderstanding had taken place—

" Maggie coost her head fu' heigh,  
Look'd asklent and unco skeigh,  
Gart poor Duncan stand abeigh."

But Martin, like the famed Duncan, cooled, and discontinued<sup>1</sup> his visits for some time, till Katherine "grew sick as he grew heal," and at last condescended to let the bookseller know her surprise why he had discontinued his visits. Martin, who had been like his favourite, "a lad o' grace,"—

" Could na' think to be her death ;  
Swelling pity smoor'd his wrath."

So he accordingly resumed his visits and Kattie became his wife, being "crouse an' canty baith;" but she never could endure the song of "Duncan Gray."

Of Mr. Martin's social habits, perhaps the best proof is the fact of his having been a member of the "Cape Club."<sup>1</sup> His diploma of knighthood is as follows :—

<sup>1</sup> The Cape Club comprised amongst its numerous members many men of talents and of private worth. Fergusson (who alludes to the Club in his poem of "Auld Reekie"), was a member; as were Mr. Thomas Sommers, his friend and biographer; Wood, the Scottish Roscius as he was called; and Runciman, the painter. The Club derived its name from the following circumstance:—"A person who lived in the suburbs of Calton was in the custom of spending an hour or two every evening with one or two city friends; and being sometimes detained till after the regular period when the Netherbow-Port was shut, it occasionally happened that he had either to remain in the city all night, or was under the necessity of bribing the porter who attended the gate. This difficult *pass*, partly on account of the rectangular corner which he turned immediately on getting out of the Port, as he went homewards down Leith Wynd, and partly, perhaps (if the reader will pardon a very

“ Be it known to all mortals, whether clerical or laical, that we, Sir James Gray, Knight of Kew, the supereminent sovereign of the most capital knighthood of the Cape, having nothing more sincerely at heart than the glory and honour of this most noble order, and the happiness and prosperity of the Knights-companions : And being desirous of extending the benign and social influence of the Order to every region under the grand Cape of Heaven ; being likewise well informed and fully satisfied with the abilities and qualifications of William Martin, Esq., with the advice and concurrence of our Council—We do create, admit, and receive him a knight-companion of the most social Order, by the name, style, and title of *Sir William Martin*, Knight of Roger, and of E. F. D.—Hereby giving and granting unto him, all the powers, privileges, and pre-eminentes that do, or may belong to this most social Order. And we give command to our Recorder to registrate this our patent in the records of the Order.—In testimony of the premises, we have subscribed this with our own proper *fist*, and have caused appended the great Seal of the Order,<sup>1</sup> at Cape-Hall, this 20th day of the month called October, in the year of grace, 1792. (Signed)—BED, Deputy-Sovereign.—Entered into the records of the Order, by Sir CELLAR, Recorder.—L. Box, Secretary.

So much for the good fellowship of the “ grinning auctioneer.” Besides being a burgess, he was a member of the Society of Booksellers, and of the Merchant Company of Edinburgh. He was also a member of the Kirk Session of the Parish of St. Cuthbert’s.

The late Mr. Archibald Constable prevailed on Martin to sit for an hour to Mr. Geddes, portrait-painter ; but the sketch was never finished, as he could not be induced to sit again. Although rough, it is a capital likeness, and was bought at Mr. Constable’s sale by a friend of “ the Knight of Roger.”

*humble pun), because a nautical idea was most natural and appropriate on the occasion of being half-seas over,* the Calton burgher facetiously called doubling the Cape ; and it was customary with his friends, every evening when they assembled, to inquire “ how he turned the Cape last night.”

The Club, on the 22d September 1770 (the birth-day of the author of “The Seasons”) held a musical festival in honour of the poet, and resolved to have similar meetings every tenth year. Accordingly, in the year 1780, 1790, and 1800, under the superintendence of Mr. Wood, who composed and recited verses for the occasion, the entertainments were repeated with increased effect.

In 1780, when letters of marque were issued against the Dutch, the Knights of the Cape, at a very thin meeting of their Order on the 26th December, subscribed two hundred and fifty guineas towards fitting out a privateer.

<sup>1</sup> “ The Great Seal of the Order,” inclosed in a tin box, has the letters “E. F. D.” surmounted by a coronet, enclosed with laurel, and the whole encircled with the words—“ Sigillum commune Equitum de Cape—Concordiae fratrum decus.”





Thomas White. Midshipman at the Bar  
of the high Court of Justiciary for  
the Murder of William Jones - Seaman  
on the Shore of Leith. on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June. 1814.—

## No. LXII.

## MR. THOMAS WHITE

Is here represented between two veterans of the Old City Guard, whose faces will be familiar to many of the citizens of Edinburgh. The particulars of the fatal affair which brought him to the bar were fully disclosed at his trial on the 12th of July 1814.

It appears that a Mr. Lovit, a midshipman of the Unicorn frigate, then lying at Leith, had been sent with a boat and a party of six men to the dockyard, to ship some rigging. This occurred on the forenoon of the 15th of June, and about three o'clock of the same day, Mr. Thomas White, a junior midshipman, was ordered with a boat and ten or twelve men, to assist the others, and to bring both parties back to the ship in the evening. Accordingly, White proceeded with three of the crew to the assistance of the party at the dockyard, leaving the boat and the remainder of the men in charge of another midshipman of the name of Carroll.

William Jones, the person killed, was in the first party, and it appears he had been drinking, and became so unruly and disobedient to Mr. Lovit, that he ran off, and had ultimately to be secured in the guard-house until such time as the party should be ready to return to the Unicorn. In the mean time White, in company with one or two more midshipmen, had been drinking in the Britannia Tavern until about seven o'clock in the evening, when he went to the pier, and inquired at the party in the boat whether Jones and others had arrived. Having been answered in the negative, he returned again to the Britannia and told midshipman Wright that two men of Lovit's party, and one of his own, were missing, at the same time desiring him to go and look after them.

White in a short time returned to the pier, calling out for Jones, who answered, "Here, sir." Jones was then on the pier, and had lain down upon his side in the manner the others had done to get into the boat, the water being low at the time, and the boat at some distance. White desired him to go on board more than once; but Jones, who was pretty tipsy, grumbled, and replied "He would not until he handed the basket to the girl"—a mulatto who had come with some drink to the party in the boat. Without farther provocation White drew his cutlass, struck Jones two or three blows on the head and breast, and also gave him a thrust in the abdomen, upon receiving which he sprung up and attempted to get over, but in doing so either fell or was shoved by White among the stones at the bottom of the pier. Jones was immediately lifted into the boat, but died in a very short time after in consequence of the thrust.

White, who was also evidently intoxicated, afterwards behaved in a most outrageous manner—threatening vengeance against the crowd, who were beginning

to press around him ; and on some gentlemen calling out to secure him, he ran along the pier a few yards, brandishing his cutlass and uttering defiance. He then went on board the store-ship lying at the pier, and stationing himself upon the bowsprit, threatened to stab any one who should attempt to lay hands on him ; and on some one calling out “Murderer !” from the pier, he again ran on shore, chasing the crowd with his cutlass. The boatswain of the Unicorn at last came up to him, and desired him to sheath his sword, but he refused. The boatswain then asked it from him, when a struggle ensued, on which one Fowler Ferguson, a carter and publican in Leith, came up and took the cutlass out of White’s hand. The prisoner was then conveyed to the Council Chamber.

From exculpatory proof led, it was shown that White bore an excellent character, both for sobriety and humanity ; that he could have entertained no malice towards Jones, as he had only the day before sheltered him from punishment for being drunk ; and likewise that, as desertions were at the time prevalent, he had acted under the impression that Jones wished to escape. Whatever else might have had influence, it was evident that drink had been the cause of the unhappy act—the ship arrived at Leith on the 14th, and the hands had received their pay only ten days previous at Stromness, so that a little irregularity might have been expected.

Although the prisoner was indicted for murder, yet the jury, after a lengthened examination, found him guilty of *culpable homicide* ; and the Lords of Justiciary, in consideration of the previous good character of the unfortunate young gentleman, sentenced him to fourteen years’ transportation.

#### No. LXIII.

#### MR. HENDERSON AND MR. CHARTERIS,

OF THE THEATRE-ROYAL, EDINBURGH,

IN THE CHARACTERS OF SIR JOHN FALSTAFF AND BARDOLPH.

MR. HENDERSON, as *Sir John Falstaff*, a character in which he has probably never been surpassed, will be easily distinguished to the left ; and it must be admitted, that in this sketch of the scene betwixt the valiant *Sir John* and his friend *Bardolph*, the pencil of the artist has felicitously conveyed a portion of the genuine animation of the original.

It was in February 1746 that Mr. John Henderson first saw the light in Goldsmith Street, Cheapside ; his family was originally Scotch, and he is said to have been a descendant in a direct line from the famous Dr. Alexander Henderson. His father died two years after the birth of our hero, leaving him and two brothers to the protection of their mother, who retired with them



as 63  
Why, Sir John, my face does you no harm. No, I'll be sworn; I make as good use of it many  
man does of a death's head, or a memento mori. I never see thy nose, but I think upon hell fire.



shortly afterwards to Newport-Pagnell, where she contrived to live upon the interest of a small sum of money. At an early age, by means of his mother, he imbibed a taste for poetry; and Shakspeare being almost his constant study, a wish to embody his characters on the stage was soon created. The play he admired most was the *Winter's Tale*. When arrived at or near the age of eleven he was sent to a school at Hemel-Hampstead, and employed the short time he was there most advantageously. From thence he returned to London, to be placed under the charge of Mr. Fournier, an eminent artist, as he had given early indications of a taste for drawing. To the house of Mr. Cripps, a silversmith of very considerable business in St. James's Street, to whom he was nearly related, he was soon afterwards transferred for the purpose of making drawings and designs for that business; but the sudden death of Mr. Cripps put an end to his prospects in this line. His ardent passion for acting now gained the ascendency, and Henderson made his first public appearance in a barn at a village in Islington, where he recited Garrick's *Ode to Shakspeare*, at that time very popular. This effort procured him a number of admirers and many invitations to parties, at all of which he displayed his powers. Exertions were made to obtain the notice of the managers; and after several years' attendance at the levee of the presiding genius of Drury Lane, during which he was refused an engagement at Covent Garden by Mr. Colman, Mr. Garrick condescended to grant him a day of audience, and heard him rehearse several scenes in a variety of characters. After some hesitation, the manager gave it as his opinion that "he had in his mouth too much worsted, which he must absolutely get rid of before he was fit for Drury Lane stage." The same fault has been found with the able representative of fiends and ruffians, O. Smith, and a rhyming critique on the merits of his acting concludes thus:—

"But his delivery is very shocking—  
He speaks as if 'twere through a worsted stocking."

Garrick, however, having no wish to discourage the "young stager," furnished him with a letter to Mr. Palmer, manager of the Bath Theatre, who gave him an engagement for a term of three years, at the very liberal salary of "one pound one per week."

On the 6th of October then, in the year 1772, did "the Bath Roscius," under the assumed name of Courtenay, make a most successful *debut* in the character of *Hamlet*, the known recommendation of Garrick operating upon the attendance at the theatre that evening, and controlling in no small degree the judgment of the audience after they went. In an address written for the occasion, Henderson shortly afterwards reclaimed his own cognomen. So attractive did he prove, that the manager found it for his interest to "send him on" that season in upwards of five-and-twenty different parts. He was noticed by people of the first rank and talent, among others Paul Whitehead, Gainsborough the painter, Dr. Schomberg, and Mr. John Beard.

After the first Bath campaign he repaired to London, fondly imagining that

the strength of his fame would cause the doors of Covent Garden and Drury Lane to be thrown open to him, and that he had nothing to do but choose between the two. But the managers even then did not propose; and though he invited Mr. Leake of Covent Garden to an entertainment, and exerted all his skill to convince him of his merit, by various recitations, he was unsuccessful in procuring an engagement, and returned to "his old perch" chagrined and mortified at this reception.

In the notice of his life in "Oxberry's Dramatic Biography," it is affirmed that while in London he amused his friends with ludicrous imitations of favourite actors, particularly Garrick, who, being informed of it, invited him to breakfast, and requested a specimen of his talents in mimicry. At the imitations of Barry, Woodward, and Love, Garrick was in raptures:—"But, Sir," said he, "you'll kill poor Barry, slay Woodward, and break poor Love's heart. Your ear must be wonderfully correct, and your voice most singularly flexible. I am told you *have* me. Do, I entreat, let me hear what I am; for if you are equally exact with me as with Barry and Woodward, I shall know precisely what my peculiar tones are." Henderson, after some hesitation, complied with his request, and though two disinterested auditors acknowledged the faithfulness of the portraiture, Garrick, displeased, said, "Egad! if that is my voice, I never have known it myself; for, upon my soul, it is entirely dissimilar to every thing I conceived mine to be, and totally unlike any thing that has ever struck upon my ear till this blessed hour."

At Bath, Henderson rose in fame by his performing *Falstaff* and several other characters of Shakspeare, and at the close of the second season again entered London in search of an engagement, and again met with a repulse from Garrick, and from Foote, then managing at the Haymarket; but so eager was he to make an appearance on the London boards, that when in Bath, towards the end of 1774, he wrote to Mr. Garrick, and proposed, at his own risk and expense, to act on Drury Lane stage the characters of *Hamlet* and *Shylock*. Mr. Taylor of Bath also solicited Mr. Garrick to accede to this. Mr. Garrick answered Mr. Taylor very explicitly:—He thought the proposal would be extremely injurious to Mr. Henderson himself; he could not suppose that his playing two characters would give the public a proper idea of his merit. As his well-wisher, he would strenuously protest against the other scheme; but if Henderson chose to be with him, why not fix upon *Hamlet*, *Shylock*, *Benedict*, or any other part he pleased to appear in next winter. To this letter Henderson, in answer, made a new proposal—to act the ensuing winter at Drury Lane Theatre, the parts of *Hamlet*, *Shylock*, *Richard*, and *Lear*, with other characters, *under restrictions*. Garrick was enraged that any one should presume to dictate terms to him, and "attempt to take the management out of his hands," as he expressed it, and again declined his services.

In the summer of 1776, Henderson performed at Birmingham, under the banners of Mr. Yates, where Mrs. Siddons was the leading actress, having the preceding season been unsuccessful in London.

At last chance brought about that which his own fame and the strong recommendations of men of genius and nobles could not effect. Mr. Colman having purchased the patent for acting plays at the Haymarket from Mr. Foote, and fearing that the infirmities of that gentleman might incapacitate him from furnishing his quota of public entertainment in writing and acting, engaged Henderson to supply his place occasionally, at a salary of one hundred pounds for the season, which was eagerly accepted. He opened in *Shylock*, and, after appearing in one or two other parts, his success was complete. All the world ran to the Haymarket to witness his performances, and a considerable sum was realised by the manager, who, though no stipulation had been made to that effect, gave him a free benefit. Messrs. Harris and Leake, of Covent Garden theatre, insinuated that Henderson was not fit for the topping parts, but was only equal to a second or third rate character, and still withheld from engaging him; but Sheridan, who had seen him act *Hamlet* twice, was not to be swayed by their dictum, and, on his own responsibility, enrolled him as a member of the corps of Drury Lane for the ensuing winter season. His salary was fixed at £10 per week, and Mr. Sheridan at the same time undertook to pay the forfeiture of articles to Palmer, the Bath manager, amounting to £300, which was done by Sheridan giving Palmer the liberty of performing *The School for Scandal*. Nothing was now wanting but the countenance of Mr. Garrick; but he, to use his own words, "could not think of having any connection with a man who had ridiculed him by mimicry, and had exposed and laughed at his letters." The latter charge Henderson always denied.

On the conclusion of the season, Henderson took a trip to Ireland, by which movement his purse and reputation were considerably increased. On his return to England, he espoused a lady bearing the Cockney plebeian name of Figgins, at her native place, Chippenham, Somersetshire, on the 13th January 1779. He again visited Ireland during the summer of that year, and in consequence of some disagreement between him and Mr. Sheridan, transferred his services to Covent Garden during the winter. It was during this engagement that he performed *Macbeth* for the first time. The summer of 1780 he passed at Liverpool, and returned to Covent Garden in the winter, when he appeared in the characters of *Wolsey*, *Sir John Brute*, and *Iago*; there is an engraving of him in the last character by Bartolozzi, which is rather scarce. In the summer of 1781 he was without an engagement; 1782, he played at Liverpool; and in November 1783, appeared as *Tamerlane* to Mr. Kemble's *Bajazet*.

On Saturday, 31st July 1784, he made his first appearance on the Scottish stage at Edinburgh, in the character of *Hamlet*. The following is a notice of his performance of that character:—"On Saturday evening Mr. Henderson made his first appearance in this theatre, in the character of *Hamlet*, to a very genteel audience. The house was full, but not crowded. This gentleman is undoubtedly the most correct actor at present on the stage. His deportment is easy and unaffected; his voice, when not carried too high, pleasing and comprehensive; and his action is the result of good sense, taste, and a perfect know-

ledge of his author. To speak comparatively, Digges' figure was better, and his voice perhaps more mellow and powerful, but Digges played with little judgment, was very deficient in the nicer touches of the art, and often had no conception of what he spoke. In judgment and taste Mr. Henderson is eminent. He understands perfectly the character he plays, and never fails to give the just meaning of his author, and this, in so difficult and various a character as *Hamlet*, requires the powers of a master. He avoids that unnatural violence and rant which is often introduced into the part, and which seldom fails to catch the ears of the groundlings, but is certainly more characteristic of the blustering player than the *Prince of Denmark*. From what we have seen we are of opinion that the admirers of Shakspeare, who wish to understand perfectly their favourite author, should attend Mr. Henderson; in his mouth no passage seems perplexed, and he is a comment at once pleasing and instructive."

On the 2d August he acted *Shylock* in the *Merchant of Venice*, which the newspaper advertisement, for the instruction of the ignorant, announces to be "written by Shakspeare."

On the 3d, *Sir John Falstaff* in the *Merry Wives of Windsor*. "One would have thought," continues the critique alluded to, "from the crowded state of the house, that the Siddons was still here. Greater praise, perhaps, was not due to Mrs. Siddons for any of her parts than to Mr. Henderson for the inimitable humour and original manner in which he played *Falstaff*. In this character he stands unrivalled on the British stage. He met with repeated bursts of applause from every part of the house. One honest gentleman was so tickled with the humour, that he almost fell into convulsions with laughing. Mr. Henderson was perhaps painted too youthful for the character."

5th, *Don John* in the *Chances*, as altered from Beaumont and Fletcher by Garrick. In this comedy "he gave a proof that his powers were as well adapted to the lively-spirited rake, as to the serious and philosophic *Hamlet*."

7th, Acted *Macbeth*. "In *Macbeth* he was equally animated and correct as in any of the other parts he has displayed."<sup>1</sup>

8th, *Sir John Falstaff*, in the First Part of *King Henry IV*, for his benefit. "In this character he exceeded any thing we have seen of his performance. The continued peals of laughter and applause, from a most brilliant and crowded audience, testified the strongest approbation, and the part perhaps was never played with such inimitable genuine humour. The Knight's description of his troop, with Mr. Henderson's looks, tones, and gestures, was beyond description admirable.

10th, *Richard III*.

14th, *King Lear*.

16th, *Sir Giles Overreach*.

<sup>1</sup> "It is surprising that there should not be a proper Scots dress on the stage in the metropolis of Scotland, and that a Spanish dress, or indeed any other, should serve as a Highland dress by the addition of a piece of tartan drawn awkwardly across the shoulder, as if it was the insignia of an order of knighthood. The characters in *Macbeth*, indeed, exhibited the dresses of all nations, and one might have thought that a dealer in Monmouth Street had been airing his stock-in-trade to prevent it being eaten by moths."—*Courant*.

The witches are said to have made a Dutch chorus of the music.

Prior to his departure, on the 18th of August, the following advertisement appeared in the newspapers :—“ Mr. Henderson, before leaving this city, begs leave most respectfully to express his grateful sense of the indulgent and liberal patronage he has received from the public of Edinburgh, and to assure them that he shall ever retain a lively remembrance of the polite and flattering attention with which they have been pleased to honour him.”

During the summer of 1785 he performed a few nights at Dublin, and was invited to the Castle, where he read the story of “ Le Fevre,” and some other select passages from his favourite Sterne, to the Duke and Duchess of Rutland and their Court.

Previous to his voyage to Dublin, some little difference betwixt him and Mr. Harris had been accommodated, and he again entered into an engagement for four years, which he did not live to fulfil. His last performance was *Horatius* in the *Roman Father*, on the 3d November 1785. He was soon after seized with a disorder—ossification of the heart—which terminated his life on the 25th of that month, in the fortieth year of his age.

On the 3d December following, the remains of John Henderson were interred in Westminster Abbey, near Dr. Johnson and Garrick, the Chapter and Choir attending to pay respect to his memory. His pall was supported by the Hon. Mr. Byng, Mr. Malone, Mr. Whitefoord, Mr. Stevens, and Mr. Hook.

MR. CHARTERIS was admirably fitted for the personification of *Bardolph*, in which character he is represented in the Print. This arose not only from the possession of genuine talents as a comic actor—but from another advantage more peculiar to himself, in bestowing which nature had been extremely prodigal—we mean his remarkably long nose. The pencil of Kay may be suspected of at least having done nothing to lessen the appearance of this protuberance ; but certain it is, Mr. Charteris’ nose was so wonderful as to be an object of general attention when he appeared on the streets. One day a party of country people were strolling along the High Street, viewing whatever might appear to them curious, when the actor, happening to be proceeding in the opposite direction, met them somewhere about the Cross. The clowns, attracted by his huge proboscis, stood staring at it, as if riveted with astonishment.—“ Gentlemen,” said Charteris, good-humouredly, suiting the action to the word, “ if you can’t get past, I’ll hold it to a side.”

Mr. Charteris was a popular actor, and his comic powers have formed the subject of four lines of doggerel in “ The Edinburgh Rosciad for 1775.” They run thus :—

“ Charteris, for comic merit, need not yield  
To any hero in thetic field :  
In the poor starved *Apothecary*, you  
Deserve great praise for looks and action true.”

He died about the year 1798—but of this event, or any thing relating to his private history, we have been unable to procure authentic information. The

death of his wife, which occurred in September 1807, is thus recorded in one of the Edinburgh periodicals of the day:—"Died on Monday last, with the well-merited reputation of an honest, inoffensive woman, Mrs. Charteris, who has been in this theatre for more than thirty years. She succeeded the much-admired Mrs. Webb, and, for many years after that actress left the city, was an excellent substitute in *Lady Dove*, *Juliet's Nurse*, *Deborah Woodcock*, *Dorcus*, *Mrs. Bundle*, etc., etc."

To her succeeded Mrs. Nicol, whose merits are too well known to require any comment from us. She retired from the stage in 1834, after a career of twenty-seven years, and died the year following. Her daughter at present (1837) fills her range of characters in the Edinburgh theatre, and bids fair to become as excellent and as popular an actress as her mother.

#### No. LXIV.

### THE REV. JOSEPH ROBERTSON MACGREGOR,

FIRST MINISTER OF THE EDINBURGH GAELIC CHAPEL.

THE old Gaelic Chapel at the Castlehill was erected in 1769, principally by the exertions of Mr. William Dickson, then a dyer in Edinburgh, who set on foot subscriptions, and purchased ground for the purpose, which was afterwards conveyed to the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge. In the course of seven years afterwards, owing to the rapid influx of people from the Highlands, it was found necessary to enlarge the building, which was then done so as to accommodate eleven hundred sitters; and although in connection with the Established Church, the subscribers and seat-holders chose their own minister, and provided him with a salary of £100 a-year. The same method of choosing a pastor still exists. The management of the chapel is placed in the hands of elders, who pay over the seat-rents to the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, and the Society takes the responsibility of making good the minister's stipend, which is now considerably increased.

MR. JOSEPH ROBERTSON MACGREGOR, the first minister of the chapel, was a native of Perthshire. For some time after he came to Edinburgh he was employed as a clerk in an upholstery warehouse; but in a few years was enabled, by great industry, to push himself forward. He became a licentiate of the Church of England, but subsequently joined the Established Church of Scotland.

Previous to the erection of the Gaelic Chapel he was employed as a Lecturer and Catechist to the Highland families, who obtained the use of the Relief Chapel, in South College Street, to assemble in after sermon, for the purpose of instruction. Mr. Macgregor was originally known by the name of Robertson,



R. 1787

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having assumed the surname of his mother, in consequence of the Proscriptive Act against the Macgregors ; but, on the repeal of that statute in 1784,<sup>1</sup> he resumed the appellation of his forefathers.

Under the active pastoral management of Macgregor, the Gaelic portion of the inhabitants of Edinburgh became as remarkable for morality and steadiness as they had been previously distinguished for conduct the reverse. “The present pastor,” says a publication of 1787, “is at uncommon pains with his hearers. He has stated diets of catechising immediately after the dismission of the congregation every Sabbath afternoon, from May till October, in the chapel. On this occasion, the younger part of the hearers are instructed in the principles of the Christian religion in the English language, and these subjects are enlarged on in the Gaelic, for the benefit of adults.”

About the same period, the congregation had increased so much that it was in contemplation to build a larger house, calculated to contain seventeen or eighteen hundred hearers. This rapid influx from the Highlands was, no doubt, owing principally to the system of expatriation adopted by some of the proprietors ; and in a secondary degree, to the extensive buildings and improvements then going on in Edinburgh, which presented a ready field of employment to a wandering population. This proposal, however, was not carried into effect till 1815, when the new chapel at the head of the Horse Wynd was erected, the front of which bears the following inscription :—

“ GAELEC CHAPEL, 1769.  
THE LORD WILL PROVIDE.  
*Removed from the Castle-hill to this place, 1815.*”

This record must not, of course, be understood in the literal sense of the terms employed. The *removal* of the chapel was not after the fashion in America, where houses, and sometimes streets, are not necessarily stationary.

The Rev. Mr. Macgregor’s residence was in Mound Place, third door up stairs, a little to the west of the present Auditor’s Chambers, etc. He died on the 12th December 1801, leaving a son and daughter. The son entered the army, and attained the rank of Colonel ;—he died only a few years ago. The daughter married a Captain Maclarens, and was long a widow.

Mr. Macgregor appears, at an early period, to have done credit to the ministerial office, and was much respected. Being of a free, social humour, he was, perhaps, more frequently called upon than any other minister in the city to officiate at marriage and baptismal ceremonies ; but unfortunately the sociality of his disposition paved the way to habits of dissipation, which, in his latter years, not unfrequently led to the solemnisation of marriages, in many instances, without proper investigation.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> So proud was Macgregor of this concession to his clansmen, that on the day the Proscriptive Act expired he dressed himself in the Highland costume peculiar to his clan, and walked conspicuously through a great portion of the city.

<sup>2</sup> In his bacchanalian irregularities, of which several gossiping anecdotes have been told, Macgregor

The successors of Mr. Macgregor in the Gaelic Chapel have been numerous. They were the Rev. James M'Lauchlan, afterwards removed to the parish of Moy, Inverness-shire; the Rev. John Macdonald, afterwards of Urquhart, Banffshire; the Rev. John Munro, afterwards of Halkirk, Caithness; and the unfortunate (he was thought to be insane) Duncan M'Cuaig, who was tried and banished for theft in July 1831.<sup>1</sup> The succeeding pastor was the Rev. John M'Allister.

## No. LXV.

## THE REV. JAMES LAWSON OF BELVIDERE,

"THE JOB OF PRESENT TIMES."

THIS Print, we are assured, is a striking likeness of MR. LAWSON, who is represented in the attitude of receiving the General Assembly's covered, buttoned, and sealed Bible, which was handed to him by a member of the Assembly, when, in answer to a question put to him as to where his creed lay, he pointed to it as the only rule of his faith. The quotations inserted on the plate, at his own request, on each side of the figure, entitled "The World and the Church," are in allusion to his protracted process before the Church Courts.

The father of Mr. Lawson was proprietor of Belvidere, a small estate in the neighbourhood of Auchterarder. He had warmly opposed the settlement of Mr. Campbell as Minister of that parish; but, on finding himself in the minority, he signed the call along with the other heritors. This opposition, trivial as it may appear, is represented in Kay's MS. as the primary cause of the course of procedure afterwards adopted by the Presbytery of Auchterarder towards his son.

Shortly after the father's death, young Lawson began seriously to think of entering the ministry; and, after attending the usual number of seasons at College, he applied to the Presbytery of Auchterarder to be licensed, at least to undergo his trials for that purpose.

According to Kay, the Rev. Mr. Campbell had not forgotten the circumstance of the Laird of Belvidere's opposition to his settlement, and resolved to manifest that vindictive feeling towards the son, which circumstances did not enable

occasionally became the associate of two well-known sporting gentlemen—then in the hey-day of youth and frolic—whose portraits we will have occasion to notice in a subsequent part of this work. These manifestations of the *spirit* render the character of the Gaelic clergyman somewhat equivocal; yet it is but fair to state that his name ought not to be confounded, as has frequently been the case, with that of the Reverend Joseph Robertson, sometime minister of the chapel in Macdowall Street, Paul's Work, who was banished for forging certificates of proclamation.

<sup>1</sup> This person became a teacher in Van Diemen's Land. The latest accounts represented him as in a state of complete destitution.

## The World

1.

The Law of  
the Medes  
and Persians  
altereth  
not.

2.

Never  
wishes  
for the  
Cath's  
Sake.

3.

What I have  
Written  
I have  
Written.

To the Law & to  
the Testimony:  
if they speak  
not according  
to this word,  
it is because  
there is no light  
in them.



## The Church

1.

-We reject  
the Law of  
God, that ye  
may keep  
your own.

2.

The Throne  
of Iniquity  
frameth  
Mischief  
by a law.

3.

Do to others  
as ye would  
have others  
do to you  
and yours.

\*  
The G. A. is  
Sealed, covered  
& buttoned  
Bible: tho  
The only Rule  
of  
Faith & manners.



him to show towards the father. Be this as it may, the fact is undoubted that the Presbytery of Auchterarder actually postponed consideration of Mr. Lawson's claim to be admitted to the ministry, without assigning any ground for so doing, for the period of six years! This occurred in 1771; and although, three years afterwards, the Assembly interfered, by an order to the Presbytery to take his case into consideration, it was not until 1777 that Mr. Lawson became actively resolute in forwarding his claim to be licensed.

In the General Assembly of that year we find him in the character of "a petitioner for justice," when his "appeal against a sentence of the Presbytery of Auchterarder, refusing to take him on licensiate trials, with reasons of dissent, and a complaint by some members of Presbytery, were taken into consideration." In the petition it is stated, "that, as soon as the appellant had made his requisition to be taken on trials, the ministers withdrew from the Presbytery house without closing the sederunt, to the house in which they were to dine; and after dinner they sent their officer for the appellant, and without calling for a single elder upstairs, or assigning any reason at all for their refusal, they (6th May 1777) did, by a majority, refuse to grant the petitioner's request." In the "reasons of dissent" by certain members of the Presbytery, it is stated—"1st, That Mr. Lawson's moral character was irreproachable;—that nothing is alleged against him except some improprieties of behaviour;—that his *recluse and studious life may have kept him a stranger to the fashion of this world*, which passeth away; but the want of these superficial accomplishments is amply compensated for by a considerable proficiency in human literature and in theology—by a simplicity, sincerity, and humility of deportment—and, above all, by a rational and unfeigned devotion; and that the Presbytery, on the principles on which they rejected Mr. Lawson, would have *rejected John the Baptist*, who was bred a hermit, unfashioned to this world.—2d, that three years have elapsed since the Assembly ordered the Presbytery to show all charity to Mr. Lawson, and, though not to be rash in taking him on trials, yet to treat him with all tenderness and candour; and that an interval of three years will vindicate the Presbytery from any charge of rashness; but it was also their duty to treat him with tenderness and candour.—And 3d, That the Presbytery refused, *simpliciter*, to take him on trials, without assigning any reason for their refusal." Parties being fully heard, after long reasoning, the General Assembly reversed the sentence complained of, and ordered the Presbytery to take Mr. Lawson on trials, with all convenient speed, and according to the rules of the Church.

The Presbytery, in accordance with the mandate of a higher court, began the business of the "trials." The result may be anticipated when we mention that, in the General Assembly of the following year (1778), Mr. Lawson again appeared in the character of a petitioner, complaining of a sentence of the Presbytery of Auchterarder, "rejecting a discourse he had delivered before them as part of his trials, and remitting him to his studies." The Honourable Henry Erskine appeared as his counsel, and Messrs. Scott, Dunbar, and Wright, for the Presbytery. After both parties were heard, the Assembly agreed to read Mr.

Lawson's prayer and homily—a proceeding which was prevented by Mr. Erskine withdrawing the appeal.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Lawson again appeared in the Assembly in 1779, as appellant from a sentence of the Presbytery of the 4th of May of that year, when the Assembly “remitte<sup>d</sup> the cause to the Presbytery, and appointed them to take Mr. Lawson on trials before the meeting of next Assembly; and in case any objections are offered to his discourses, or to his conduct, they shall give him an opportunity of being heard on these objections before passing any judgment upon them.”

This remit did not benefit Mr. Lawson; and in the next Assembly he again appeared as a “persevering petitioner” against the Presbytery of Auchterarder. In this new petition he complains that on 2d of February 1780 the Presbytery prescribed to him a homily on a passage in Matthew, which the petitioner delivered on the 4th of April, and upon which the Presbytery did not give judgment, but prescribed to him another portion of Scripture for a lecture. The lecture he also delivered on the 25th of April, when the Presbytery again, without giving judgment, prescribed another portion of Scripture for an exercise and addition; but being thus “exercised” out of all patience, the student once more claimed the protection of the Supreme Court. On hearing the petition the Assembly appointed a committee to meet with the parties, with the view of an amicable adjustment, and afterwards “remitte<sup>d</sup> to the Presbytery to proceed to the remainder of Mr. Lawson's trials, to finish the same, and pronounce their final judgment thereon, between and the first Wednesday of May next.”

The Presbytery, thus pushed to extremities, had no resource but to pronounce a final opinion, which was done within the period assigned; and we need scarcely add, after what had passed, that it was condemnatory of the petitioner. On the meeting of the Assembly in 1781, the committee which had been appointed to consider Mr. Lawson's discourses gave in a report (to which the Assembly agreed) of the following tenor:—“Edinburgh, May 31, 1781.—The committee report that having heard three of Mr. Lawson's discourses, and a letter of his to the Presbytery of Auchterarder, in answer to a question of the Presbytery put to him respecting his communicating, they found in the discourses such proofs of incapacity, and, in the letter such a spirit, as in their unanimous opinion fully justified the sentence of the Presbytery refusing to grant him a license.” The Rev. Mr. Cowan of Gladsmuir dissented from this judgment of the Assembly.

The final result certainly exonerates the Presbytery from all other blame, excepting that of having unnecessarily delayed a decision for so long a period.

<sup>1</sup> This proceeding on the part of his counsel certainly creates a strong presumption that, although the Presbytery might originally have erred in postponing consideration of the claim, the latter remit of Mr. Lawson to his trials was a very proper one. If the prayer and homily were unexceptionable, why not have submitted them to the consideration of the Assembly? In that case, after considering these productions, had the members of that venerable court been satisfied of his fitness for the ministry, the sentence complained of would have been reversed.





Between the years 1781 and 1785 Mr. Lawson published a full detail of the proceedings in his case, in a pamphlet occupying nearly 300 pages of letterpress ; also, "Three Letters addressed to candid Christians of all denominations." He immediately thereafter went to London, where he was well received by several Dissenting clergymen, and from whom he obtained a license to preach, which he continued to do for a few years, in connection with the Relief body. Mr. Lawson died at Leith on the 27th of August 1788.

## No. LXVI.

## AN EXCHANGE OF HEADS.

HUGO ARNOT, ESQ.—MR. WILLIAM MACPHERSON,  
AND ROGER HOG, ESQ.

THE "Exchange of Heads" is supposed to have taken place betwixt two individuals, so very opposite in every describable feature, that the one has been denominated a *shadow*, while the other, *par excellence*, may as appropriately be termed *substance*. The space between *shadow* and *substance* is ingeniously devoted to the full development of a *back view* of a third party, who, differing entirely from either, displays a rotundity of person more than equal to the circumference of both.

Some account has already been given of MR. ARNOT, whose head, forming the apex to the solid pyramid of Macpherson's trunk, appears first to the left in the trio of figures. Respecting his substantial friend, however, whose ponderous head, as if poised on a needle, seems like an infringement of the laws of gravity, some amusing gossip has been preserved.

MR. WILLIAM MACPHERSON, whose father was sometime deacon of the masons in Edinburgh, was a Writer to the Signet, and, in many respects, a man of very eccentric habits. He lived in that famed quarter of the city, the West Bow, three stairs up, in a tenement which immediately joined the city wall, and looked towards the west, but which has been recently removed to make way for the improvements now in progress, and which have all but annihilated the Bow. Mr. Macpherson continued a bachelor through life, and seemed from many circumstances to have conceived a determined antipathy to the "honourable state of matrimony." He had two maiden sisters who kept house with him ; but whether they entertained similar prejudices, or remained single

from necessity, we do not pretend to know. The bachelor respected his sisters very much, although in his freaks he called the one *Sodom* and the other *Gomorrah*.

Like most of his contemporary lords of the quill, Macpherson possessed many “social qualities;” but he quaffed so deeply and so long, that towards night he seldom found his way up the High Street in a state short of total inebriety. On arriving at the West Bow, and when he came to the bottom of the stair, he used to bellow to *Sodom* or *Gomorrah* to come down and help up their *drunken brother*, which they never failed to do; and, for additional security in such cases, it is said he generally ascended the stair *backwards*.

Notwithstanding his potations, Macpherson maintained for some time a degree of respectability, at least, consistent with the laxity of the times. When associating with the more respectable *bon vivants* of these his better days, his favourite saying, before tossing off his glass of claret, of which he was very fond, used to be, “Here goes another peck of potatoes.”<sup>1</sup> Macpherson at length became, we regret to say, a habitual drunkard. A loss of respectability in his profession was the consequence; and from the practice which he followed of signing Signet letters for very small sums of money, and other low habits of business, inconsistent with the dignity of the Society, his professional brethren at last urged him to retire upon an annuity. This, however, his pride would never allow him to consent to; and he continued a member of the Society of Writers to the Signet till the day of his death.

No case, however trifling—no client, however poor or disreputable, was latterly beneath the legal aid of Macpherson; and no mode of payment, whether in goods or currency, was deemed unworthy of acceptance. As an instance of his practice, he was seen one day very tipsy, plodding his way up the West Bow from the Grassmarket, with an armful of “neeps” (turnips), which he had obtained from some green-stall keeper, in remuneration for legal services performed. Not being able to maintain a proper equilibrium, his occasional “bickers” at last unsettled his burthen; one or two of the turnips, like Newton’s apple, found the centre of gravity, and in attempting to recover these, nearly the whole of his armful trundled down the causeway. Macpherson, determined not to lose what might otherwise contribute much to a favourite dinner, coolly, and as steadily as possible, set about collecting the turnips, and actually succeeded, to the astonishment of every one, in accomplishing his object. On arriving with his load at the accustomed stair-foot, he shouted, as usual, for *Sodom* and *Gomorrah* to render assistance; and by their aid he and his cargo eventually reached his apartments in safety.

There is another amusing anecdote told of this decayed, but still independent, lawyer. The Governor of Edinburgh Castle had been in want of a respectable cook, and applied to Mr. Creech, the bookseller, to do what he could to procure one. Creech having found some difficulty in fulfilling the commission, felt

<sup>1</sup> A glass of claret was then equal in price to a peck of potatoes. The origin of this saying is attributed to Mr. Creech, bookseller, but afterwards became a standing remark with Macpherson.

considerably annoyed by the frequent messages from the Castle concerning the much-wanted cook. One day the Governor's black lackey came into the shop to make the usual inquiry. The Bailie observed Macpherson pass the door at the moment, and determining to get rid of his black tormentor by any means, directed Mungo's attention to the bacchanalian, who happened to be sober at the time, it being then early in the forenoon. The servant, assured that Macpherson was a cook in want of a situation, marched boldly after the lawyer, and giving him a gentle tap on the shoulder, said "The Governor wants to see you at the Castle."—"Just now?" inquired Macpherson, his countenance brightening up with the anticipation of something to his advantage.—"Soon as possible," said Mungo.

Macpherson immediately returned to the West Bow, cropped his beard of three days' standing, and, assisted by *Sodom* and *Gomorrah*, prepared for the appointment. His sisters were equally on the tiptoe of expectation as to what the Governor could possibly be wanting in such haste. Macpherson made various conjectures, but in vain. Every suggestion appeared to him unlikely, save the commencement of some important process, which nothing but his superior talents could have pointed him out as the proper person to undertake. Brushed up, and bedecked in something like the style of his better days, the renovated Writer to the Signet hurried to the Castle, and was ushered into—the *lobby!* where, to his astonishment, he was desired to wait till the Governor came. This, to a W.S., was the reverse of courtesy; but he naturally supposed the apparent incivility arose from the ignorance of the lackey, and imagined the mistake would soon be rectified by the Governor himself. The Governor came. "Well, have you got a character?" was his first salutation. "A character!" said Macpherson, astonished beyond measure at such a question being put to a *lawyer*. "Why, what do you mean by a character?"—"Have you *not* got a character?" repeated the Governor. "To be sure I've got a character!" replied Macpherson, still more astonished. "Where is it then, can't you show it?"—"Show it!" reiterated the lawyer, his bluff cheeks colouring with a sense of insult, "there's not a gentleman in Edinburgh but knows me!"—"That may be," said the Governor, "but no one should presume to ask a place without having a character in his pocket."—"The d——l take the place—what place have I solicited? Why, I was sent for to speak with the Governor."—"What are you?" said the latter, at last conceiving the possibility of a mistake. "I'm a Writer to the Signet," answered Macpherson, with corresponding dignity of manner. "Writer to the Signet! astonishing—this is all a mistake—I wanted a *Cook!*"—"Confound you and your cook both!" vociferated the indignant W.S., turning on his heel and hurrying off to drown his mortification in a meridian libation. Nothing so easily irritated Macpherson in after times as any allusion to this unlucky incident.

There was one redeeming virtue in the character of Macpherson rarely to be found in professional men, and least of all in such a character as himself, which speaks more than language can do for the natural goodness of his heart.

Rather than allow any person whom he had been employed to prosecute to be put in jail, he has been frequently known to advance the sum himself, even when he had not the most distant chance of repayment.

Mr. Macpherson died on the 9th of May 1814. His sister, *Sodom*, died in Gillespie's Hospital.

The centre figure, ROGER HOG, Esq. of Newliston, whose amplitude of back is so well delineated, was formerly one of the Directors of the Bank of Scotland, and a regular attender of their meetings. He has been already pretty fully described in No. XVII.

#### No. LXVII.

### THE REV. JOHN M'LURE,

CHAPLAIN TO THE GRAND LODGE.

MR. M'LURE was originally educated for the church, and obtained the clerical title by being licensed to preach, after undergoing the usual trials. It was not his fortune, however, to obtain a kirk. A few embarrassing years of “hopes deferred” entirely deadened his ambition for the pulpit; and at last, abandoning all intention of “clinging by the horns of the altar,” he settled down in Edinburgh as a teacher of writing, arithmetic, and book-keeping.

In the memorable year 1745, Mr. M'Lure, being then a young man, was a member of the Trained Band. Marching on one occasion to Musselburgh, in expectation of meeting with a party of the rebels, it is told of the teacher, that having made up his mind to be shot, he had fixed a quire of paper—symbolic of his profession—to his breast, on which the following memorandum was written:—“This is the body of John M'Lure, writing-master in Edinburgh—let it be decently interred!” This sepulchral direction happily proved unnecessary. John was not slain, but lived to become for many years “Grand Chaplain” of the “Grand Lodge of Scotland;” and throughout a long life maintained “the character of a good man and an excellent mason, being considered the oracle of the craft in Edinburgh.”

Mr. M'Lure died in 1787. He was married, and left several children, two of whom, Alexander and Hamilton, were bred to the medical profession. The former went abroad. The latter was several years a surgeon in Edinburgh, and died not long after his father.



K. Rocca 1787  
GRAND CHAPLAIN 67







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## No. LXVIII.

MR. ALEXANDER WOOD,  
SURGEON.

THE pencil of Kay has done justice to the memory of this eminent surgeon and very excellent man, by the production of two striking portraits of him. The one here prefixed possesses the real octogenarian demeanour of the "kind old Sandy Wood," who is represented as passing along the North Bridge with an umbrella under his arm, in allusion to the circumstance of his having been the first person in Edinburgh who made use of that very convenient article—now so common.

MR. WOOD'S father was the youngest son of Mr. Wood of Warriston, in Mid-Lothian—afterwards the property of the Earl of Morton. He long possessed a house and grounds, situated immediately to the north of Queen Street, and rented from the Town of Edinburgh, where Mr. Wood was born in the year 1725.

Mr. Wood completed his medical education in Edinburgh ; and having taken out his diploma, he established himself at Musselburgh, where he practised successfully for some time. He then removed to Edinburgh, became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, and entered into a copartnership with Messrs. Rattray and Congalton, men of eminence in their day, and to whose practice he subsequently succeeded.

Being gifted with strong natural talents, great tact, and an activity of mind and person rarely surpassed ; and possessing a perfect simplicity and openness of character, with a singularly benevolent disposition and peculiar tenderness of heart, Mr. Wood soon rose to high professional celebrity.

Not long after connecting himself with Messrs. Rattray and Congalton, he married Miss Veronica Chalmers, second daughter of George Chalmers, Esq., W.S., an individual of great worth and respectability. In reference to this connection a very pleasing anecdote is told. Mr. Wood, on obtaining the consent of the lady, having proposed himself to Mr. Chalmers as his son-in-law, that gentleman addressed him thus :—"Sandy, I have not the smallest objection to you—but I myself am not rich, and *should*, therefore, like to know how you are to support a wife and family?" Mr. Wood put his hand into his pocket, drew out his lancet-case, and said, "I have nothing but this, sir, and a determination to use my best endeavours to succeed in my profession." His future father-in-law was so struck with this straightforward and honest reply, that he immediately exclaimed, "Vera is yours!"

Notwithstanding a certain bluntness and decision of manner, which was liable to be occasionally misunderstood, and which gave rise to some curious scenes and incidents in the course of his professional practice, Mr. Wood's philanthropy and kindness were proverbial ; and his unremitting attention to the distresses of the indigent sick, whom he continued to visit in their wretched dwellings, after he had given up general practice, was a noble trait in his character. What has been said of the illustrious Boerhaave may be equally applied to him—that “he considered the poor as his best patients, and that he never neglected them.” To his other qualities he added an enthusiastic warmth and steadiness in his friendships, with a total freedom from selfishness—and in his social relations, that kind and playful manner, which softened asperities, and rendered available all the best sympathies and affections of which human nature is susceptible ; and being of a most convivial disposition, his company was courted by all ranks. In fact, few men have ever been so universally beloved as Mr. Wood, and proportionally numerous are the testimonies to his worth.

During the long course of his useful career he enjoyed the unanimous good will and approbation of his brethren, who, without any jealous feelings, allowed him the palm of superiority he deservedly merited—a tribute due not only to the soundness of his practical knowledge, and the dexterity of his skill in operating (which tended much to raise the reputation of the surgical department of the Royal Infirmary), but to his personal character.

In a fragment of a fifth Canto of “Childe Harold,” which appeared in “Blackwood’s Magazine” for May 1818, he is thus alluded to :—

“ Oh ! for an hour of him who knew no feud—  
The octogenarian chief, the kind old Sandy Wood ; ”

and, in a note on this stanza, he is spoken of as “Sandy Wood—one of the delightful reminiscences of Old Edinburgh—who was at least eighty years of age, when, in high repute as a medical man, he could yet divert himself in his walks with the ‘Hie Schuil laddies,’ or bestow the relics of his universal benevolence in feeding a goat or a raven.”

He is also alluded to in a spirit of tenderness and affection by Sir Walter Scott, in a prophecy put into the mouth of Meg Merrilees ;<sup>1</sup> and the late celebrated John Bell, who had been a pupil of Mr. Wood, dedicates to him his first volume of Anatomy in a concise but elegant tribute to his skill, his disinterested conduct, and public and private virtues.<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Wood’s character is further commemorated by the late Sir Alexander

<sup>1</sup> “A gathering together of the powerful shall be made amidst the caves of the inhabitants of Dunedin. Sandy is at his rest. They shall beset his goat ; they shall profane his raven ; they shall blacken the buildings of the Infirmary ; her secrets shall be examined ; a new goat shall bleat, until they have measured out and run over fifty-four feet nine inches and a half.”

<sup>2</sup> “To Alexander Wood, surgeon, whose abilities and skill, and disinterested conduct, have raised him by common consent to the first rank in a most useful profession, conducting him in honour to that period of life in which he must feel, with pleasure, how completely he enjoys the confidence of the public and the esteem of all good men—this book of anatomy is presented by his pupil John Bell.”

Boswell of Auchinleck in these lines—part of an epitaph composed by him on Mr. Wood :—

“ But cold the heart that feels no genial glow,  
Pondering on him whose ashes sleep below :  
Whose vivid mind, with grasping power, could reach  
Truths that the plodding schools can never teach.  
Who scorned, in honesty, the spacious wiles  
Of dull importance, or of fawning smiles :  
Who scouted feelings frittered and refined,  
But had an ample heart for all mankind.”

The following anecdote is a proof of Mr. Wood’s popularity with the lower classes. During a riot in Edinburgh, some of the mob, mistaking him at night (owing to a great resemblance in figure) for Sir James Stirling, then the Lord Provost of the City, and at that time far from being a favourite, seized Mr. Wood on the North Bridge, and were going to throw him over the parapet, when he cried out, “ I’m lang Sandy Wood—tak’ me to a lamp and ye’ll see.” Instead of executing their vengeance, he was cordially cheered and protected from farther outrage.

Sir James and Mr. Wood, although thus in such different esteem with the lower class of the inhabitants of Edinburgh, were intimate friends. It is told of them, that on one occasion the Provost—with his cocked hat, and long spare figure—meeting the Doctor in the High Street, he jocularly put a guinea into his hand, and giving a piteous account of his sufferings from indigestion, and the state of his stomach, asked his advice. The Doctor—with a figure almost equally spare, and the same head-dress—retreated from the Provost, who continued to follow him, reproaching him for pocketing the money without giving him any opinion on his case. At last, after this scene had lasted for some considerable space, Mr. Wood replied to Sir James’s remonstrances :—“ You’re quite wrong, Sir James ; I have been giving you the best possible advice all this while. If you’ll take hold of my coat-tail, and only follow me for a week as you’ve been doing for the last ten minutes, you’ll have no more trouble with your stomach.”

Although very confident in his own practice, and very decided, Mr. Wood never failed to call in the aid of his professional brethren when there appeared to be real danger. The celebrated Dr. Cullen and he were frequently in attendance together, and on the most friendly and intimate footing. Upon one occasion they were in the sick-room of a young nobleman of high promise who was afflicted with a severe fever—the Doctor on one side of the bed, in his usual formal and important manner, counting the patient’s pulse, with his large stop-watch in his hand—Mr. Wood on the other, and the parents anxiously waiting the result. The Doctor abruptly broke the silence—“ We are at the crisis ; in order to save him, these pills must be taken instantly,” producing some from his waistcoat pocket. Mr. Wood, who had a real affection for the young Lord, shook his head significantly, and said with a smile, “ O Doctor, Doctor, nature has already done her work, and he is saved. As to your pills—you

may just as well gie him some pease meal." The young Lord, after he became a distinguished and venerable Earl, used to tell this anecdote of his old friend, and always added that he remembered the whole scene as well as if it had happened yesterday.

## No. LXIX.

THIS Plate represents MR. WOOD in the full possession of all that activity and fire for which he was distinguished in the hey-day of middle age. The cane is thrown smartly over his shoulder, while the whole bearing of the portrait is admirably illustrative of the bold and original character of the man.

In addition to the foregoing reminiscences, there are a few other characteristic anecdotes of Mr. Wood, which may with propriety be given here. The following humorous one has been related to us by a citizen of Edinburgh, now in his eighty-third year. This gentleman was at the time an apprentice to Deacon Thomson, a glover and breeches-maker by profession. The Deacon was a guzzling hypochondriacal sort of a genius, and, like many others of similar habits, was subject to much imaginary misery. One night he took it into his head that he was dying. Impressed with this belief, he despatched a messenger for Mr. Wood; but, being very impatient, and terrified that the "grim king" should seize him before the Doctor could come to his rescue, and suspecting that the messenger might dally with his mission, the dying breeches-maker started from the couch of anticipated dissolution, and went himself to the house of Mr. Wood. He knocked violently at the door, and, in a state of great perturbation, told the servant to hurry his master to his house, "For," continued he, "Deacon Thomson is just dying!" Having thus delivered his doleful mission, away hobbled the epicurean hypochondriac, anxious, from certain unpleasant suggestions which instinctively occurred to him, to get again into bed before the Doctor should arrive. In this wise resolution he was however baulked: Mr. Wood, although half undressed when he received the summons, lost no time in hastening off, and pushed past the Deacon just as he was threading his way up his own turnpike.—"Oh, Doctor, it is *me*," said the hypochondriac. "You!" exclaimed the justly-indignant Sandy Wood, at the same time applying the cane to the back of his patient with the utmost goodwill. He then left him to ascend the remainder of the stair with the accelerated motion which the application of this wholesome regimen inspired, and so effectual proved the cure that our informant has frequently heard the Deacon mention the circumstance in presence of the Doctor.

Another ridiculous story is told of Mr. Wood. The Honourable Mrs. \* \* \* had taken a fancy to sit upon hens' eggs, in order that she might hatch chickens. Her relations, becoming alarmed for her health, went to consult the Doctor on the subject, who, promising a perfect cure, desired them to make his compliments to their friend (with whom he was well acquainted), and tell her that



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he meant to have the pleasure of drinking tea with her that evening. The lady, resolving to do honour to her guest, ordered her servant to place her best set of china on the table, and to wheel it up opposite her nest. Mr. Wood made his appearance at the appointed hour, and having, with all due gravity, partaken of a dish of tea, he suddenly laid hold of a portion of the favourite tea-equipage, rushed towards the window, which he opened, and seemed about to throw the whole into the street. Mrs. \* \* \*, alarmed at the insane-like proceeding of her guest, flew to save the valuable china, when Mr. Wood, seizing the opportunity, *herried* the nest, and broke all the eggs. By this stratagem the whim of his patient was effectually put to flight.

Mr. Wood was an enthusiastic admirer of the great Mrs. Siddons. At her first visit to Edinburgh, many were the fainting and hysterical fits among the fairer portion of the audience. Indeed they were so common, that to be supposed to have escaped might almost have argued a want of proper feeling. One night when the house had been thrown into confusion by repeated scenes of this kind, and when Mr. Wood was most reluctantly getting from the pit (the favourite resort of all the theatrical critics of that day) to attend some fashionable female, a friend said to him in passing, "This is glorious acting, Sandy," alluding to Mrs. Siddons; to which Mr. Wood answered, "Yes, and a d——d deal o't too," looking round at the fainting and screaming ladies in the boxes.

When routs were first introduced in Edinburgh, they were very formal affairs, being in no way congenial to the manners or temper of the people. At one of the first that had been given by a person of distinction, the guests were painfully wearing away the time, stiffly ranged in rows along the sides of the room, and looking at each other, the very pictures of dulness and ennui, when Mr. Wood was announced, who, casting his eyes round him, proceeded up the empty space in the middle of the drawing-room, and then addressed the lady of the house, saying, "Well, my lady, will ye just tell me what we are all brought here to do?"—an enquiry which every one felt to be so perfectly appropriate that it was followed by a hearty laugh, which had the effect of breaking up the formality of the party, and producing general hilarity and cheerfulness for the rest of the evening.

If Mr. Wood's kindness of disposition widely diffused itself towards his fellow creatures, young and old, he was almost equally remarkable for his love of animals. His pets were numerous, and of all kinds. Not to mention dogs and cats, there were two others that *individually* were better known to the citizens of Edinburgh—a sheep and a raven, the latter of which is alluded to by Sir Walter Scott, in the quotation which has been given from Guy Mannering. Willy the sheep, pastured in the ground adjoining to the Excise Office, now the Royal Bank, and might be daily seen standing at the railings, watching Mr. Wood's passing to or from his house in York Place, when Willy used to poke his head into his coat-pocket, which was always filled with supplies for his favourite, and would then trot along after him through the town, and sometimes

might be found in the houses of the Doctor's patients. The raven was domesticated at an ale and porter shop in North Castle Street, which is still, or very lately was, marked by a tree growing from the area against the wall. It also kept upon the watch for Mr. Wood, and would recognise him even as he passed at some distance along George Street, and taking a low flight towards him was frequently his companion during some part of his forenoon walks—for Mr. Wood never entered his carriage when he could possibly avoid it, declaring that unless a vehicle could be found that would carry him down the closes and up the turnpike stairs, they produced nothing but trouble and inconvenience.

It may be superfluous to state that the subject of these brief sketches was rarely spoken of as *Mr.* Wood, but as *Sandy* Wood. This general use of the Christian name, instead of the ordinary title, proceeded from a feeling the very opposite of disrespect. It was the result of that affection for his person with which his universal and inexhaustible benevolence and amiable character inspired all who knew him.

Mr. Wood continued to maintain that professional eminence which had been so early conceded to him, and was considered the unrivalled head of the surgical practice in his native city, till within a few years of his death, when increasing infirmities obliged him to retire. He died on the 12th of May 1807, at the advanced age of eighty-two.

#### No. LXX.

### CAPTAIN HIND.

THIS person was an officer of the 55th Regiment of Foot, and his peculiar appearance seems to have attracted the notice of the artist. The half-running walk, open mouth, and military hat, gently o'er-topping a few hairs, are unequivocal indications of something eccentric, and at once vouch for the accuracy of the likeness. The 55th Regiment was stationed at Edinburgh Castle in 1790, and had the complement of men filled up by drafts from the 35th. They then proceeded to Newcastle, where they were embarked for foreign service. During his residence in Edinburgh Captain Hind was a devoted admirer of a celebrated beauty, whose portrait will be forthcoming in a subsequent part of the work. But the attachment, it is said, was not reciprocal; on the contrary, the "ladie fair" actually detested her admirer. This dislike, however, had only the effect of increasing, instead of abating, his passion.









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## No. LXXI.

## ROBERT M'QUEEN OF BRAXFIELD,

LORD JUSTICE-CLERK.

THIS eminent lawyer and judge of the last century was born in 1722. His father, John M'Queen, Esq. of Braxfield, in the county of Lanark, was educated as a lawyer, and practised for some time; but he gave up business on being appointed Sheriff-Substitute of the Upper Ward of Lanarkshire. He was by no means wealthy, and having a large family, no extravagant views of future advancement seem to have been entertained respecting his children. Robert, who was his eldest son, received the early part of his education at the grammar-school of the county town,<sup>1</sup> and thereafter attended a course at the University of Edinburgh, with the view of becoming a Writer to the Signet.

In accordance with this resolution, young M'Queen was apprenticed to Mr. Thomas Gouldie, an eminent practitioner, and, during the latter period of his service, he had an opportunity of superintending the management of processes before the Supreme Court. Those faculties of mind which subsequently distinguished him both as a lawyer and a judge were thus called into active operation; and, feeling conscious of intellectual strength, he resolved to try his fortune at the bar. This new-kindled ambition by no means disturbed his arrangement with Mr. Gouldie, with whom he continued until the expiry of his indenture. In the meantime, however, he set about the study of the civil and feudal law, and very soon became deeply conversant in the principles of both, especially of the latter.

In 1744, after the usual trials, he became a member of the Faculty of Advocates. In the course of a few years afterwards, a number of questions arising out of the Rebellion in 1745, respecting the forfeited estates, came to be decided, in all of which M'Queen had the good fortune to be appointed counsel for the crown. Nothing could be more opportunely favourable for demonstrating the young advocate's talents than this fortuitous circumstance. The extent of knowledge which he displayed as a feudal lawyer, in the management of these cases—some of them of the greatest importance—obtained for him a degree of reputation which soon became substantially apparent in the rapid increase of his general practice. The easy unaffected manners of Mr. M'Queen also tended much to promote success. At those meetings called consultations, which, for many years after his admission to the bar, were generally held in taverns, he “peculiarly shone” both in legal and social qualifications. Ultimately his practice became so great, especially before the Lord Ordinary, that he has been repeatedly

<sup>1</sup> The grammar-school of Lanark was at this period in considerable repute. The teacher's name was Thomson, a relative of the author of “The Seasons,” and married to his sister.

known to plead from fifteen to twenty causes in one day. Some idea of the influence and high character to which he had attained as an advocate may be gathered from the couplet in the "Court of Session Garland," by Boswell :—

“ However of our cause not being ashamed,  
Unto the whole Lords we straightway reclaimed ;  
And our petition was appointed to be seen,  
*Because it was drawn by Robbie M'Queen.*

On the death of Lord Coalston, in 1766, Mr. M'Queen was elevated to the bench by the title of Lord Braxfield—an appointment, it is said, he accepted with considerable reluctance, being in receipt of a much larger professional income. He was prevailed upon, however, to accept the gown, by the repeated entreaties of Lord President Dundas,<sup>1</sup> and the Lord Advocate, afterwards Lord Melville. In 1780 he was also appointed a Lord Commissioner of Justiciary; and in 1787 was still more highly honoured by being promoted to the important office of Lord Justice-Clerk of Scotland.

Lord Braxfield was equally distinguished on the bench as he had been at the bar. He attended to his duties with the utmost regularity, daily making his appearance in court, even during winter, by nine o'clock in the morning; and it seemed in him a prominent and honourable principle of action to mitigate the evils of the "law's delay," by a despatch of decision, which will appear the more extraordinary, considering the number of causes brought before him while he sat as the Judge Ordinary of the Outer House.

As Lord Justice-Clerk, he presided at the trials of Muir, Palmer, Skirving, Margarot, Gerald, etc. in 1793-4. At a period so critical and so alarming to all settled governments, the situation of Lord Justice-Clerk was one of peculiar responsibility, and indeed of such a nature as to preclude the possibility of giving entire satisfaction. During this eventful period Lord Braxfield discharged what he conceived to be his duty with firmness, and in accordance to the letter and spirit of the law, if not always with that leniency and moderation which in the present day would have been esteemed essential.

The conduct of Lord Braxfield, during these memorable trials, has indeed been freely censured in recent times as having been distinguished by great and unnecessary severity; but the truth is, he was extremely well fitted for the crisis in which he was called on to perform so conspicuous a part; for, by the bold and fearless front he assumed, at a time when almost every other person in authority quailed beneath the gathering storm, he contributed not a little to curb the lawless spirit that was abroad, and which threatened a repetition of that reign of terror and anarchy which so fearfully devastated a neighbouring country. But if the conduct of his lordship in those trying times was thus

<sup>1</sup> "Mr. M'Queen had contracted an intimacy with Mr. Dundas, afterwards Lord President of the Court of Session, and his brother, Lord Melville, at a very early period of life. The Lord President, when at the bar, married the heiress of Bonnington, an estate situated within a mile of Braxfield. During the recesses of the Court, these eminent men used to meet at their country seats and read and studied law together. This intimacy, so honourable and advantageous to both, continued through life."

distinguished by high moral courage, that of the prisoners implicated in these transactions, it cannot be denied, was marked by equal firmness. During the trial of Skirving, this person conceiving Braxfield was endeavouring by his gestures to intimidate him, boldly addressed him thus :—"It is altogether unavailing for your lordship to menace me ; for I have long learned to fear not the face of man."

As an instance of his great nerve, it may be mentioned that Lord Braxfield, after the trials were over, which was generally about midnight, always walked home to his house in George Square alone and unprotected. He was in the habit, too, of speaking his mind on the conduct of the Radicals of those days in the most open and fearless manner, when almost every other person was afraid to open their lips, and used frequently to say, in his own blunt manner, "They would a' be muckle the better o' being *hanged!*"

When his lordship paid his addresses to his second wife, the courtship was carried on in the following characteristic manner. Instead of going about the bush, his lordship, without any preliminary overtures, deliberately called upon the lady, "and popped the question" in words to this effect :—"Lissy, I am looking out for a wife, and I thought you just the person that would suit me. Let me have your answer, aff or on, the morn, and nae mair about it!" The lady, who understood his humour, returned a favourable answer next day, and the marriage was solemnised without loss of time.

Lord Braxfield was a person of robust frame—of a warm or rather hasty temper—and, to "ears polite," might not have been considered very courteous in his manner. "Notwithstanding, he possessed a benevolence of heart," says a contemporary, "which made him highly susceptible of friendship, and the company was always lively and happy of which he was a member."

His lordship was among the last of our judges who rigidly adhered to the broad Scotch dialect. "Hae ye ony counsel, man ?" said he to Maurice Margarot, when placed at the bar. "No."—"Do you want to hae ony appointit ?" continued the judge. "No," replied Margarot, "I only want an interpreter to make me understand what your lordship says!"

Of Lord Braxfield and his contemporaries there are innumerable anecdotes. When that well-known bacchanalian, Lord Newton, was an advocate, he happened one morning to be pleading before Braxfield, after a night of hard drinking. It so occurred that the opposing counsel, although a more refined devotee of the jolly god, was in no better condition. Lord Braxfield observing how matters stood on *both sides of the question*, addressed the counsel in his usual unceremonious manner—"Gentlemen," said he, "ye may just pack up your papers and gang hame ; the tane o' ye's rifting punch, and the ither's belching claret—and there'll be nae gude got out o' ye the day!"

Being one day at an entertainment given by Lord Douglas to a few of his neighbours in the old Castle of Douglas, port was the only description of wine produced after dinner. The Lord Justice-Clerk, with his usual frankness, demanded of his host if "there was nae claret in the Castle?"—"I believe there

is," said Lord Douglas, "but my butler tells me it is not good."—"Let's pree't," said Braxfield, in his favourite dialect. A bottle of the claret having been instantly produced and circulated, all present were unanimous in pronouncing it excellent. "I propose," said the facetious old judge, addressing himself to Dr. McCubbin, the parish clergyman, who was present, "as a *fama clamosa* has gone forth against this wine, that you *absolve* it."—"I know," replied the Doctor, at once perceiving the allusion to Church-court phraseology, "that you are a very good judge in cases of civil and criminal law; but I see you do not understand the laws of the Church. We never absolve *till after three several appearances!*" Nobody could relish better than Lord Braxfield the wit or the condition of absolution.

After a laborious and very useful life, Lord Braxfield died on the 30th of May 1799, in the 78th year of his age. He was twice married. By his first wife, Miss Mary Agnew, niece of the late Sir Andrew Agnew, he had two sons and two daughters. By his second wife, Miss Elizabeth Ord, daughter of the late Lord Chief-Baron Ord, he had no children.

His eldest son, Robert Dundas M'Queen, inherited the estate of Braxfield, and married Lady Lilias Montgomery, daughter of the late Earl of Eglinton. The second entered the army, and was latterly a Captain in the 18th Regiment of Foot. The eldest daughter, Mary, was married to William Honyman, Esq. of Graemsay, afterwards elevated to the bench by the title of Lord Annandale, and created a Baronet in 1804. The second, Catherine, was married to John Macdonald, Esq. of Clanronald.

#### No. LXXII.

#### GEORGE PRATT (THE TOWN-CRIER).

THIS person was Town-Crier of Edinburgh about the year 1784, and made himself remarkable for the manner of his address in discharging the duties of his office. This singularity consisted in an extremely pompous delivery, which proceeded from the very high opinion he entertained of the importance and dignity of his situation as a public officer.

Deeply imbued with this sentiment, George gave forth his intimations to the inhabitants—it might be to announce the arrival of a fresh supply of skate—with an air and manner at once extremely imposing and edifying. It is painful to add, however, that he utterly failed in impressing the boys of the town with the same respect for his person and his office that he entertained himself. So far from this, the irreverent young rogues took every opportunity of annoying him. They laughed at his dignity, and persecuted him with the cry of "Quack, quack!"—a monosyllable which was particularly offensive to his ears. This cry was sometimes varied into "Swallow's nest," a phrase which he also abominated, as it made an allusion to a personal deformity. This was a large excrescence, or wen, that grew beneath his chin.



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## No. LXXXIII.

## THE REV. DR. JOHN ERSKINE,

LATE OF THE OLD GREYFRIARS' CHURCH, EDINBURGH.

THIS is a very faithful representation of the above worthy man and no less excellent divine. The attitude in which he is delineated is that which he invariably assumed on entering upon his discourse, and is remarkably in unison with the description of the “colleague of Dr. Robertson,” furnished by the graphic pen of Sir Walter Scott, in the novel of Guy Mannering.<sup>1</sup>

DR. ERSKINE, born on the 2d of June 1721, was the eldest son of John Erskine, Esq. of Carnock, Professor of Scots-Law in the University of Edinburgh, and well known as the author of the Institutes of the Law of Scotland. The early education of young Erskine was conducted with a view to the legal profession, of which his father was so much an ornament; and although he had almost from infancy discovered a more than common seriousness of temper, and, as he advanced in years, manifested a strong predilection in favour of the pulpit, he repressed his aspirations so far as to submit to the usual course of discipline formerly prescribed in Scotland for those who intended to become advocates.

He entered the University of Edinburgh towards the end of the year 1734, where he acquired a thorough classical knowledge, and became acquainted with the principles of philosophy and law. Among other youths of great promise at that time at the college, was the late Principal Robertson, with whom young Erskine formed an intimate friendship, which, notwithstanding the shades of opinion in matters of church polity, and even in some doctrinal points mutually entertained by them in after life, continued to be cherished, amid their public contests, with unabated sincerity. While in the ardent pursuit of his classical acquirements, however, Dr. Erskine by no means neglected the study of theology; on the contrary, his predilections in favour of the pulpit had increased, and so strong was his conviction of the duty of devoting his talents to the service of religion, that he resolved to acquaint his parents with his determination, and to endure their utmost opposition. The comparatively *poor* Presbyterian Church of Scotland had never been an object of aristocratical ambition; besides this pecuniary objection, the friends of young Erskine conceived that the profession of the law, while it presented a wider field, was more adapted for the display of

<sup>1</sup> “His external appearance was not prepossessing. A remarkably fair complexion, strangely contrasted with a black wig, without a grain of powder; a narrow chest and a stooping posture; hands which, placed like props on either side of the pulpit, seemed necessary rather to support the person than to assist the gesticulation of the preacher; a gown (not even that of Geneva), a tumbled band, and a gesture, which seemed scarcely voluntary, were the first circumstances which struck a stranger.”

his talents, and were therefore entirely hostile to his views. Their opposition, however, could not shake his resolution—he persevered in his theological studies, and was, in 1742, licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Dunblane.

The future progress of the young divine, till his settlement in the metropolis, is easily told:—“In May 1744 he was ordained minister of Kirkintilloch, in the Presbytery of Glasgow, where he remained till 1754, when he was presented to the parish of Culross, in the Presbytery of Dunfermline. In June 1758 he was translated to the New Greyfriars, one of the churches of Edinburgh. In November 1766, the University of Glasgow conferred on him the honorary degree of doctor of divinity; and, in July 1767, he was promoted to the collegiate charge of the Old Greyfriars, where he had for his colleague his early friend Dr. Robertson.”

In these various movements towards that field of honour and usefulness in which his talents ultimately placed him, Dr. Erskine carried along with him the universal respect of his parishioners. They had been delighted and improved by his public instructions—and were proud of having had a clergyman amongst them, at once combining the rare qualifications of rank, piety, and learning. He was most exemplary in his official character; ever ready to assist and counsel his parishioners, he “grudged no time, and declined no labour, spent in their service.”

Dr. Erskine was not only zealous for the interests of religion at home, but equally so for its diffusion abroad; and in order to obtain the earliest and most authentic intelligence of the state of the Gospel in the colonies of North America, where a remarkable concern for religion had manifested itself about the time he obtained his license, he commenced a correspondence with those chiefly interested in bringing about that interesting event. He also, some time after, opened a communication with many distinguished divines on the Continent of Europe—a correspondence which he unweariedly cultivated during the remainder of his life. This practice added much to his labour, not only by an increased and voluminous epistolary intercourse, but in “being called upon by the friends of deceased divines to correct and superintend the publication of posthumous works.”<sup>1</sup>

In his Continental correspondence, the Doctor had seriously felt the want of a knowledge of the Dutch and German languages; and, at an advanced period of life, actually set about overcoming this difficulty, which he successfully accomplished in a remarkably short space of time. A rich field, in the literature of Germany, being thus thrown open to him, the result of his industry was soon manifested by the publication of “Sketches and Hints of Church History and Theological Controversy, chiefly translated and abridged from modern foreign writers,” the first volume of which appeared in 1790, and the second in 1798.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The greater part of the works of President Edwards, of Dickenson, of Stoddart, and Fraser of Allness, were brought out in this way.

<sup>2</sup> On the appearance of this volume, Dr. Erskine was violently assailed by an anonymous writer

As might have been expected from the Doctor's enthusiastic character, he took an active interest in the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge. So long as his strength continued, he was one of its most zealous members; and when the infirmities of age would no longer permit him to attend personally at their meetings, he was frequently consulted on matters of importance to the Society at his own house.

Dr. Erskine had never been in possession of much corporeal strength; and his weakly constitution began the sooner to feel the effects of approaching old age. Indeed, it is much to be wondered that his slender frame so long endured such an excess of mental and even bodily labour as distinguished his whole life. For several winters previous to his death he had not been able to preach regularly; and, for the last thirteen months, was compelled to leave it off altogether, his voice having become so weak as to be incapable of making himself heard. His mind, however, survived unimpaired amid the gradual decay of his bodily powers. His judgment was as clear, and his memory as good as in his younger years; and almost to the last minute of existence he maintained the pursuit of those labours which had combined the business and the pleasure of his existence. On the 19th of January, the day previous to his demise, he was occupied in his study till a late hour. About four o'clock on the morning of the 20th (1803) he was suddenly taken ill; and although the alarm was immediately given, he expired, seemingly without a struggle, before his family could be collected around him.

His body was interred in the Greyfriars' churchyard. The funeral was attended by a vast train of mourners, and an immense concourse of spectators assembled to witness the last obsequies to the remains of their venerable and much respected pastor. At the request of his widow, the Reverend Dr. Davidson, who was an esteemed friend of the deceased, preached a funeral sermon in the Old Greyfriars' Church, on the following Sunday, to a numerous and affected audience.

Dr. Erskine was married to the Honourable Miss M'Kay, daughter of Lord Reay, by whom he had a family of fourteen children, but only four survived—David Erskine, Esq. of Carnock, and three daughters, one of whom was the mother of James Stewart, Esq. of Dunearn.

Of Dr. Erskine's voluminous writings we cannot here even attempt a bare enumeration. They are, however, extensively known throughout the country. His first work, "On the Necessity of Revelation," written in his twenty-first year, and in which he had occasion to advocate some of the opinions maintained in Dr. Warburton's "Divine Legation of Moses," procured him the approbation

under the signature of "A. C.," by whom he was accused of favouring the views of the "Illuminati"—a German sect, at the head of whom was Nicholai, a celebrated bookseller and publisher—either through ignorance of the characters of those men whose writings he had patronised and introduced to the notice of the British public, or "with the view to revive the old exploded hue-and-cry against Popery." To the accusations thus put forward, Dr. Erskine, then in his seventy-eighth year, successfully replied in a pamphlet entitled "Dr. Erskine's Reply to a Printed Letter directed to him by 'A. C.,' in which the gross misrepresentations in said letter are considered."

and friendship of that distinguished prelate. His detached sermons, published while a country clergyman, were remarkable for a propriety and correctness of taste ; while his Theological Dissertations, which appeared so early as 1765,<sup>1</sup> were full of masterly disquisition on some of the most interesting points of divinity ; and, in short, his whole works are distinguished for “precision of thought and originality of sentiment.”

Dr. Erskine’s opinions in matters of Church polity are at once known from the prominent position which he maintained for many years as leader of the popular party in the General Assembly, in opposition to his old schoolfellow, Dr. Robertson. In state politics he was equally bold and independent in his views. In 1769, on the breach with America, he published a discourse entitled “Shall I go to war with my American brethren ?” which is said to have given great offence to some of those in high quarters at the time, and was considered as treasonable by many. It is even said the Doctor could get no bookseller to run the risk of publication, which seems to be corroborated by the fact that the sermon was actually published in London without any publisher’s imprint being attached to it. The discourse, however, was reprinted at Edinburgh in 1776, with the author’s name, and the addition of a preface and appendix, even more in opposition to the views of government than the discourse itself. On the subject of the American war he was strongly opposed to the sentiments of Mr. Wesley, who was a warm defender of the somewhat questionable policy pursued by the ministers of that ruinous period. He was opposed also to the constitution afterwards given to Canada, conceiving that the Roman Catholic religion had been too much favoured ; and, in 1778, he was equally opposed to the attempt then made to repeal certain enactments against the Catholics of Great Britain, on which subject he entered into a correspondence with Mr. Burke, which was published. Without reference to their merits, the political sentiments of Dr. Erskine were at least entitled to respect, from the conscientiousness with which they were entertained, and the independence with which they were asserted.

As a man, Dr. Erskine was remarkable for the simplicity of his manner, and in his conduct exhibited a genuine example of that humility and charitableness so prominent in the character of Christianity. He was ardent and benevolent in his disposition, and his affections were lasting and sincere. In proof of this, his continued friendship for his opponent, Dr. Robertson, is instanced as a noble example. The moderate, and perhaps somewhat *liberal*, views of the latter gentleman respecting the repeal of the penal statutes against the Catholics in Scotland, had so highly incensed the mob of Edinburgh in 1778, that a furious party had actually assembled in the College-yard for the purpose of demolishing the house of the Principal, which they would in all probability have done, in

<sup>1</sup> These were—“Mr. Wesley’s Principles Detected ; or a Defence of the Preface to the Edinburgh edition of ‘Aspasio Vindicated,’ in answer to Mr. Kershaw’s Appeal.”—“Theological Dissertations, (1.) On the Nature of the Sinai Covenant. (2.) On the Character and Privileges of the Apostolic Churches. (3.) On the Nature of Saving Faith.”





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defiance of the military, had they not been quieted and dispersed by the interference and exhortation of Dr. Erskine. The funeral sermon preached by the reverend gentleman on the death of the historian, is another noble example of the triumph of mind over the frailties of humanity.

Of Dr. Erskine's pulpit oratory, perhaps a more correct idea cannot be given than is furnished in the description of the great novelist formerly alluded to. "Something there was of an antiquated turn of argument and metaphor, but it only served to give zest and peculiarity to the style of elocution. The sermon was not read—a scrap of paper, containing the heads of the discourse, was occasionally referred to, and the enunciation, which at first seemed imperfect and embarrassed, became, as the preacher warmed in his progress, animated and distinct: and, although the discourse could not be quoted as a correct specimen of pulpit eloquence, yet Mannering had seldom heard so much learning, metaphysical acuteness, and energy of argument, brought into the service of Christianity."

An "Account of the Life and Writings of Dr. Erskine," by the Rev. Sir Henry Moncreiff Welwood, was published in 1818, 8vo, which presents much interesting and valuable information in regard to the ecclesiastical state of Scotland during the last century.

#### NO. LXXIV.

IN this full-length sketch of DR. ERSKINE, Kay has been equally felicitous as in the former. He is here depicted to the very life. The Doctor had rather an odd custom of carrying his left glove in a manner suspended by the tops of two of his fingers, which, it will be observed, the artist has not omitted.

Dr. Erskine was frequently very absent. In the course of his wandering one day in the Links of Edinburgh, he stumbled against a cow. With his usual politeness, he took off his hat, made a low bow and a thousand apologies, and then walked on. A friend, who witnessed what had happened, accosted him, and inquired why he had taken off his hat; he replied, that he had accidentally jostled a stranger, and was apologising for his rudeness. His amazement may be conceived when he was informed that he had been offering his excuses to a cow! On another occasion, he met his wife in the Meadows; she stopped, and he did so too—he bowed, hoped she was well, and bowed again, and went on his way. Upon his return home, Mrs. Erskine asked him where he had been; he answered, in the Meadows, and that he had met a lady, but he could not for the world imagine who she was!

It may not be here out of place to remark, that Dr. Erskine was by no means so morose or so studious as to be insensible to the lighter enjoyments of society. The following anecdote of him and his friend Dr. Webster shows that he could both *practise* as well as entertain a good joke. The well-known convivial propensities of the latter, the universal respect in which he was held, and the

great excellence of his conversational powers, frequently led to social sittings not altogether in accordance with his clerical character. Like most other *gudewives*, Mrs. Webster did not silently succumb to his repeated infringements of domestic regularity; and, in answer to her close-questioning on these occasions, the minister used frequently to excuse himself by saying that he had "just been down calling for Dr. Erskine, and the Doctor had insisted on him staying to supper." Dr. Erskine, at length coming to understand in what manner his good name was made the excuse of his friend's derelictions, resolved in a good-humoured way to put a stop to the deception. "One night, therefore, when Dr. Webster was actually in his house, in an accidental way he made an excuse to retire, and, leaving Webster to sup with Mrs. Erskine, went up to the Castlehill to call for Mrs. Webster. Dropping in as if nothing unusual was in the wind, he consented to remain with Mrs. Webster to supper; and thus the two clergymen supped with each other's wives, and in each other's houses, neither of the said wives being aware of the fact, and Webster equally ignorant of the plot laid against his character for verity. Long before Webster's usual hour for retiring, Dr. Erskine took leave of Mrs. Webster, and returned to his own house, where he found his friend as yet only, as it were, pushing off from the shore of sobriety. When his time was come, Webster went home, and being interrogated as usual, 'Why,' answered he, now at least speaking the truth, 'I've just been down at Dr. Erskine's.' The reader may conceive the torrent of indignant reproof which, after having been restrained on a thousand occasions when it was deserved, burst forth upon the head of the unfortunate and for once innocent Doctor. When it had at length subsided, the Doctor discovered the hoax which had been played off upon him; and the whole affair was explained satisfactorily to both parties next day, by Dr. Erskine's confession. But Mrs. Webster declared that, from that time forth, for the security of both parties from such deceptions, she conceived it would be as well, when Dr. Webster happened to be supping with Dr. Erskine, that he should bring home with him a written affidavit, under the hand of his host, testifying the fact."

Another anecdote, highly characteristic of his unbounded charity and extreme simplicity of manner, is told of the worthy and unostentatious old clergyman. For several Sabbaths Dr. Erskine had returned from Church *minus* his pocket-handkerchief, and could not account for the loss. The circumstance attracted the particular notice of Mrs. Erskine, who had for some time past observed an elderly looking poor woman constantly occupy a seat on the stair leading to the pulpit. Suspicion could scarcely attach itself to so demure a looking Christian; but Mrs. Erskine resolved to unriddle the mysterious affair by sewing a handkerchief to the pocket of Mr. Erskine's Sunday coat. Next Sabbath the old gentleman, thus "armed against the spell," was proceeding in his usual manner towards the pulpit, when, on passing the suspected demure-looking carline, he felt a gentle "nibble" from behind. The Doctor's displeasure could not be roused, however; he turned gently round, and clapping "detected guilt" on the head, merely remarked, "No the day, honest woman; no the day!"





George Washington

75

## No. LXXV.

## DR. HENRY MOYES,

LECTURER ON CHEMISTRY, ETC.

DR. MOYES was born in the year 1750 at Kirkcaldy, in the county of Fife. What station in society his father held, and even what profession he followed, we are not told. It seems probable, however, that he was possessed of some property, because his son was sent to college and enjoyed the benefit of a liberal education.

He lost his sight, when about three years old, by the small-pox, so that he hardly retained any recollection of having ever seen. Yet he stated that he remembered having once observed a water-mill in motion, and that, even at that early age, his attention was attracted by the circumstance of the water flowing in one direction, while the wheel turned round in the opposite. This he represented as having staggered his infant mind before he could comprehend it. He was sent to school, but what was his progress there is unknown. From thence he was removed to the University, where, judging from his subsequent acquirements, it is to be presumed he made considerable progress. One thing is certain, that in early life he undoubtedly acquired the fundamental principles of mechanics, music, and the languages ; and displayed a knowledge of geometry, algebra, optics, astronomy, chemistry, and in short of most of the branches of the Newtonian philosophy. He seems to have delighted in, and to have had a great taste for mechanics, for we are told that at a very early age he made himself acquainted with the use of edge-tools so perfectly that he was able to make little wind-mills, and even constructed a loom with his own hands.

His first attempt at delivering public lectures commenced at Edinburgh, where he lectured on the theory and practice of music, but not meeting with the encouragement he expected, he relinquished the design. What was the more immediate cause of his resolving to deliver a course of lectures on chemistry is unknown ; but it was probably the interesting and miscellaneous nature of the subjects treated of, the reputation of Dr. Black, professor of that science in Edinburgh, who was then in his zenith, and the uncommon avidity with which his class was attended by the students. As he was the first blind man who proposed to lecture on chemistry, the novelty of the proposal naturally excited curiosity and attention.<sup>1</sup> But so careless have been his biographers, that they

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Moyes' lectures were usually well attended. During his stay in Edinburgh a curious mistake occurred betwixt two ladies. The one being from the country, and having heard of the celebrated conjuror, Doctor Boaz, who was at the same time giving lectures on the art of legerdemain, her curiosity was on edge to witness his sleight-of-hand. The city dame, who of course was her cicerone on

have not mentioned in what year he commenced, how many courses he delivered, nor whether he made any attempt at this time in any other city or town of his native country. We have heard him lecture. There was nothing very remarkable in his manner. His voice was good, and his articulation excellent. There was no appearance of affectation or conceit, nor of that impudent forwardness which gives offence and creates disgust. Nevertheless, he never seemed in the least degree embarrassed, but handled his subject in such a way as to convince his audience that he was well prepared. The accuracy of his language, considering the disadvantages with which he had to contend, was wonderful; and if there were any defect, it consisted in sometimes making use of very bold metaphors, which could have been as well spared. His epithets were in general well applied, and seldom had a tendency towards bombast. The address which he discovered in performing experiments excited great interest in the company present, and afforded them the highest pleasure.

He left Scotland in 1779, and directed his route towards England; but in what part of the country he commenced his career is not known. From the strong partiality to Manchester which he retained during the whole subsequent part of his life, it is conjectured he made his debut in that place.

As a proof of the liberal manner in which he was treated in England, it is sufficient to mention that he spent six years in making a tour through it. He delivered lectures not only in the capital, but almost in every city and considerable town. The introductions which he carried from one part of the country to another, were from persons of the first character and influence in society, and he had the art of rendering himself so agreeable to those whom he visited, that he was much courted, and every person was proud to do him a service. In most places which he visited it was reckoned a distinguished honour to be admitted into his company, and have an opportunity of listening to the conversation of so uncommon a genius, who, though blind from his infancy, had acquired so large a stock of curious, useful, and miscellaneous knowledge. His audience consisted of the most respectable people of the towns through which he passed.

Dr. Moyes did not rest satisfied with having accomplished many laborious journeys through South Britain. His aspiring temper and enterprising genius contemplated with ardour the idea of crossing the Atlantic, and pushing his fortune in America. Accordingly, for this purpose, he set sail in 1785. He was received with open arms by the Americans. His fame had gone before him, and in his progress through the continent of America he conversed with such persons as were distinguished for their learning and love of science. In some places the crowds that repaired to his lectures were exceedingly great. The churches—that is, the places generally appropriated to the purposes of public

all occasions, misunderstood the expression of her friend, and thought she meant the blind lecturer, Dr. Moyes. Chairs being ordered for the two ladies, they were accordingly set down at the lecture-room of the philosopher. The country lady anxiously waited for a display of those wonderful tricks she had anticipated; but was at last astonished, although not the less gratified, to find that she had been made an unintentional auditor of an interesting experimental lecture on chemistry.

worship—were thrown open to him to lecture in, and every rank and condition rivalled each other who should show him the greatest hospitality and kindness. He was much more popular in that country than he had been even in England. The attempt at delivering lectures on any branch of philosophy was a very great novelty, but especially from a person who had not the use of eyes.

The following paragraph respecting him appeared in an American newspaper of that day :—"The celebrated Dr. Moyes, though blind, delivered a lecture upon optics, delineating the properties of light and shade," etc. It therefore seems that he did not confine his lectures strictly to chemistry when abroad. His American tour is understood to have been a very profitable speculation.

On his return to his native country he took a house in Edinburgh, where he resided for some time. Before he went to America he had projected to make a tour through Ireland, but was prevented. In 1790, he crossed the channel and arrived in Belfast. He visited all the principal towns in the island, and remained a few months in Dublin, and was highly gratified with the reception he met. He now determined to take up his residence at Manchester, and there spend the remainder of his life.<sup>1</sup>

This remarkable character was rather tall in his person, and of a swarthy complexion. His temper was cheerful, and his conversation interesting. He was remarkably abstemious. He had a natural dislike to animal food of every description, and tasted no ardent spirits nor fermented liquors. He bequeathed his fortune, which was considerable, to his brother,<sup>2</sup> and died on the 10th of August 1807, in the fifty-seventh year of his age.

<sup>1</sup> After his return from Dublin, Dr. Moyes delivered a lecture in Edinburgh, on the 14th of April 1795, for the benefit of the "Industrious Blind" employed at the Asylum. His audience consisted principally of the higher classes, and it was calculated that there could be no less than eleven hundred individuals present. The exact amount of the sum collected is not stated, but it is understood to have been very large. "It is scarcely necessary to add," says a notice of this lecture, "that the Doctor's observations on the best means of preserving the blessings of health were received with every mark of that unfeigned satisfaction which sound philosophy, expressed with all the elegance and energy of language, never fails to produce in enlightened minds, especially when directed to the purposes of utility and benevolence."

<sup>2</sup> He was one of the Episcopal clergymen of St. Paul's Chapel, then in the Cowgate. He is alluded to in that wicked poem, the "Town Eclogue"—Edinburgh, 1804—written by the Rev. William Aureol Hay Drummond. The Cowgate Chapel, from the eloquent discourses of that amiable clergyman, the Rev. Mr. Alison, was usually crowded whenever he preached. In allusion to this, Hay says,

"But things are better, where each Sabbath day  
Gay fashion's coaches crowd the Chapel's way,  
Save when Old Moses' dreary, drowsy drone,  
Makes maidens titter, and Sir William [Forbes] groan."

The poet says, with what truth we know not, that "Moses" (Mr. Moyes), in treating of the happiness of the life to come, observed that one great benefit was, "An easy introduction to the acquaintance of those very respectable persons the angels."

## No. LXXVI.

## SIR WILLIAM FORBES OF PITSLIGO,

BANKER IN EDINBURGH.

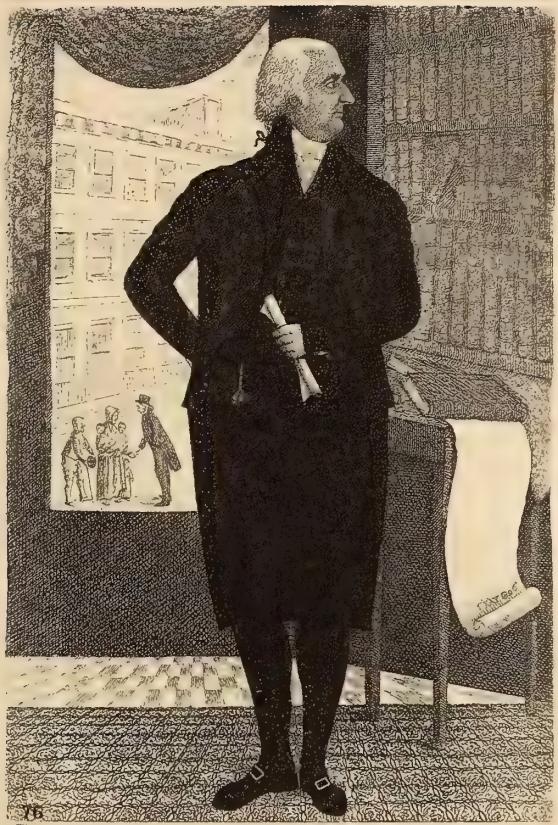
THE words of the engraving, “The good shall mourn a brother—all a friend,” were never more appropriately applied than in allusion to the character of Sir William Forbes. In the language of the Rev. Mr. Alison, there was no person of the age “who so fully united in himself the same assemblage of the most estimable qualities of our nature; the same firmness of piety, with the same tenderness of charity; the same ardour of public spirit, with the same disdain of individual interest; the same activity in business, with the same generosity in its conduct; the same independence towards the powerful, and the same humanity towards the lowly; the same dignity in public life, with the same gentleness in private society.”

SIR WILLIAM FORBES was born at Edinburgh on the 5th of April 1739. He was descended (both paternally and maternally) from the ancient family of Monymusk, and by his paternal grandmother from the Lords Pitsligo. His father, who was bred to the bar, died when Sir William was only four years of age. His mother, thus left with two infant sons, and very slender means of support, retired among her friends in Aberdeenshire. His younger brother did not long survive.

Though nurtured in rather straitened circumstances, Sir William by no means lacked an excellent education, which he received under the superintendence of his guardians—Lord Forbes, his uncle; Lord Pitsligo, his maternal uncle; Mr. Morrison of Bogny, and Mr. Urquhart of Meldrum—among whom he was trained to the habits and ideas of good society; but it was principally to the sedulous care of his widowed mother, who instilled into his young mind the sentiments of rectitude and virtue, that, as he frequently in after life declared, he “owed every thing.” Both his parents belonged to the Scottish Episcopal Church, to which communion Sir William remained during his life a steady and liberal adherent.

In 1753 Lady Forbes returned to Edinburgh, with the view of choosing some profession for her son, who had now attained his fourteenth year. Fortunately, through the influence of a friend, Mr. Farquharson of Haughton, he was taken into the banking-house of Messrs. Coutts, and bound apprentice to the business the following year.

Sir William’s term of servitude lasted for seven years, on the expiry of which he acted for two years more in the capacity of a clerk in the establishment. During this time he continued to reside with his mother, and felt much satisfac-



THE GOOD SHALL MOURN A BROTHER—ALL A FRIEND



tion in being enabled, from the gradual increase of his salary, to contribute to her comforts. By his undeviating rectitude, steady application, and the display of very superior qualifications for the profession, he had early attracted the notice of Messrs. Coutts, with whom he was, in 1761, admitted into partnership, with only a small share in the profits. Owing to the death of one of these gentlemen, and the retirement of the other on account of bad health (the other two brothers being settled in London), a new company was formed in 1763, consisting of Sir William Forbes, Mr. James Hunter (afterwards Sir James Hunter Blair), and Sir Robert Herries. Although neither of the Messrs. Coutts had any share in the new concern, the firm continued under the old name until 1773, when, on the withdrawal of Sir Robert Herries, who formed a separate establishment in London, the name of the firm was changed to that of Forbes, Hunter, and Co. Sir William was at the head of the concern, over which he ever after continued to preside, and the uncommon success which attended its operations is in no small degree attributable to his peculiar sagacity and prudence. In 1783 the Company commenced to issue notes, which obtained an extent of credit almost without parallel.

Sir William married, in 1770, the eldest daughter of Dr. (afterwards Sir James) Hay, which event obliged him to separate from the "venerated guide of his infant years," who lived to a good old age, happy in the growing prosperity and kind attention of her son.<sup>1</sup>

Sir William had now fairly commenced that career of usefulness which so much distinguished his long life. Naturally of a benevolent disposition, his attention was early directed to the charitable institutions of the city, many of which, previous to his taking an interest in them, were in a languishing state. The Charity Workhouse, of which he became a Manager in 1771, felt, in an especial manner, the effects of his persevering solicitude. In 1777 he published a pamphlet on the improvement of this institution, which was characterised as "full of practical knowledge and enlightened benevolence;" and he continued through life to take an active interest in its welfare. Of the Orphan Hospital, too, he was a Manager for many years, and always, from 1774, one of its most zealous and efficient directors.

The erection of the late High School, in which Sir Walter Scott and other eminent men were educated, is another proof of Sir William's public spirit as a citizen, and his active perseverance and power of overcoming difficulties. He was a zealous Manager of the Royal Infirmary, to which, at his death, he left £200. The Lunatic and Blind Asylums owed much to his exertions; and, in short, no improvements were contemplated, and no benevolent work projected, which did not find in Sir William ready and efficient support.

In accordance with a long-cherished desire of restoring his family, which had been reduced by attainder, to its former dignity and fortune, Sir William embraced a favourable opportunity of purchasing seventy acres of the upper

<sup>1</sup> She died in 1789.

barony of Pitsligo, including the old mansion-house, at that time roofless and deserted. By the death of Mr. Forbes, in 1781, Sir William succeeded as heir to the lower barony also, and thus had his early dreams almost realised. The property he had acquired was extensive, but, from the misfortunes of the family, sadly out of condition. Sir William immediately set about its improvement. He established numbers of poor cottars on the most uncultivated portions of the estate, erected the village of New Pitsligo, and, by the utmost liberality as a landlord, induced settlers to come from a distance. In the course of a short space of time he had the satisfaction of seeing a thriving population, and "several thousand acres smiling with cultivation, which were formerly the abode only of the moor-fowl or the curlew." He also established a spinning-school at New Pitsligo, introduced the linen manufacture, and erected a bleachfield; he built a school-house, a chapel of ease connected with the Established Church, and a chapel for those of the Episcopal persuasion. To the estate of Pitsligo Sir William soon after added, by purchase, those of Pittoullie and Pittindrum, which were contiguous, and from their proximity to the sea-shore afforded excellent facilities of improvement.

In 1784 Sir William became a member of the Merchant Company, and was elected Master in 1786, a situation which he was frequently afterwards called upon to fill. He was a warm promoter of the plan adopted by that body for rendering annuities to widows a matter of right, instead of a gift of charity, as formerly. But his attention was by no means confined to local matters: he was one of the committee of merchants appointed to confer with Sir James Montgomery, then Lord Advocate, "on the new Bankrupt Act introduced in 1772, and many of its most valuable clauses were suggested by his experience;" again, in 1783, on the expiry of the new Act, he was Convener of the Mercantile Committee in Edinburgh, when further improvements were effected in the Bankrupt laws.

As we have already mentioned, Sir William was by descent attached to the Episcopal communion. Under his fostering management the Cowgate chapel was built, "afterwards known as the most popular place of worship in Edinburgh;" and, in 1800, he was chiefly instrumental in bringing the Rev. Mr. Alison to that chapel, then settled in a remote rectory in Shropshire.<sup>1</sup>

Sir William was a gentleman of the most polished and dignified manners; and although much of his time must necessarily have been occupied in the prosecution of those manifold pursuits which conferred so much benefit on his native city and the country in general, he still found leisure to indulge in a taste for literature, and to make himself acquainted with the progress of science.

<sup>1</sup> Under the influence of that eloquent divine the congregation rapidly increased, both in numbers and respectability, and was at length enabled, in 1818, through the indefatigable exertions of Lord Medwyn, Sir William's second son, and by their own efforts, aided by the liberality of their friends, to erect the present beautiful structure called St. Paul's Chapel, in York Place; at the same time the late Sir William Forbes, eldest son of the subject of this memoir, effected, by similar exertions, the completion of St. John's Chapel, in Princes Street; and thus, chiefly by the efforts of a single family, in less than half a century, was the Episcopal communion of Edinburgh raised from its humble sites in Blackfriars' Wynd, and Carrubber's Close, to occupy two beautiful edifices, on which upwards of £30,000 had been expended.

He was one of the original members of the Antiquarian Society, instituted chiefly by the exertions of the Earl of Buchan;<sup>1</sup> and so early as 1768 he had spent nearly twelve months in London, in the family of Sir Robert Herries, where he became a member of the London Literary Club, and formed an acquaintance with the principal literary characters of that period. Among the latter was the celebrated painter, Sir Joshua Reynolds, who executed two admirable portraits of Sir William Forbes.

By such an extended circle of acquaintance, Sir William was led into an interesting and extensive correspondence, for which he evidently had a high relish, although almost the only relic of his talents in composition is an “Account of the Life and Writings of James Beattie, LL.D.” author of the “Essay on Truth” (in answer to some of the Essays of David Hume, the celebrated philosopher and historian), “The Minstrel,” etc. This work was published in 1806, and has passed through three or four editions. It includes many original letters of his early and esteemed friend, and is an excellent specimen of what might have been expected from Sir William’s pen, had not perhaps higher and more important duties engrossed the greater portion of his time.

Sir William’s circle of friends, however, was by no means confined to men of professional literary talents, or to those who might benefit by his patronage. He was intimately acquainted with Lord Melville and with Mr. Pitt, who had frequent interviews with Sir William on subjects of finance. In short, his house in Edinburgh was the resort of all ranks; and few foreigners of distinction visited Scotland without having letters of introduction to him. He was frequently offered a seat in Parliament, both for the city of Edinburgh and the county of Aberdeen, but he uniformly declined the honour; in doing so he sacrificed the gratification of a laudable ambition to a sense of duty, which he conceived to be limited to the sphere in which he had already been the promoter of so many benefits. From similar praiseworthy motives he also declined the honour of an Irish Peerage proposed to him by Mr. Pitt in 1799.

The health of Sir William began to decline in 1791, at which period he had a severe illness, and in 1802 Lady Forbes died, a circumstance which sensibly affected his spirits. On his return from London in 1806, whither he had been summoned as a witness on Lord Melville’s trial, he began to feel symptoms of decay; and, after having been confined to the house from the 28th June, he expired on the 12th November 1806, surrounded by his friends, and inspired by every hope which a virtuous and useful life is so capable of affording. Sir William had a large family; besides his eldest son and successor, he left Lord Medwyn, Mr. George Forbes, and five daughters, four of whom are now married—Lady Wood, Mrs. M'Donnell of Glengarry, Mrs. M'Kenzie of Portmore, and Mrs. Skene of Rubislaw. His successor, Sir William, was cut off in the middle of his years and usefulness, leaving three sons. The eldest,

<sup>1</sup> Sir William held the situation of Treasurer of the Antiquarian Society, from its institution in 1780 till the period of his demise.

Sir John Stuart Forbes, who succeeded him in the title and estates, married a daughter of the late Marquis of Lothian; the second, Charles, was a banker in the firm of Sir William Forbes and Co.; and the third, James David, was the distinguished Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh.

The scene represented in the background of the Print is referable to the charity almost daily bestowed by Sir William on a number of "pensioners," who were in the habit of frequenting the Parliament Square at stated periods, where they were certain of meeting their benefactor as he entered or retired from the banking-house.

#### No. LXXVII.

#### THOMAS FRASER (A NATURAL).

THIS is another of those "Characters" for which Edinburgh was so much famed some fifty or sixty years ago. Tom was a thorough mountaineer, and extremely fond of the "dew." He would do any thing for a sip of his favourite beverage—dance, sing, run, fight, carry a load, or perform any thing at all, only promise him "a dram and a sneeshin." He is here represented as in possession of what seemed to him the very essence of human bliss—a glass of whisky—bestowed by his kind hostess, to whom his attitude and eye are significant of the most heartfelt gratitude.

Tom was employed as a sweeper about the stables of Mr. Peter Ramsay, vintner,<sup>1</sup> at the Cowgate Port, where he constantly resided; and at night, a little straw in one of the stalls formed the shake-down of the poor natural. In short, the stable, as the song has it,

"Served him for kitchen, parlour, and hall."

He never partook of any thing in the house, except when called in for the entertainment of a company, to whom, for a glass of whisky, he would either exhibit himself in a Highland reel, or sing a song, in which he could ingeniously accompany himself with a very harmonious bass, produced by his fingers upon the table or pannel of the door. Thomas died in 1789.

<sup>1</sup> Brother to William Ramsay, Esq., the first proprietor of Barnton, and father of the late William Ramsay, Esq., banker. Ramsay's Inn was an establishment of great respectability in its day. The "Traditions of Edinburgh" mention that "General Paoli was its guest, in 1778;" the same authority adds, as illustrative of the more homely manners of former times, "that the sows upon which the late Duchess of Gordon and her witty sister (Lady Wallace) rode, when children, were not the common vagrants of the High Street, but belonged to Peter Ramsay, the celebrated stabler in St. Mary's Wynd, and were permitted to roam abroad. The two romps used to watch the animals as they were let loose in the forenoon from the stable-yard, and get upon their backs the moment they issued from the close.

The late Mr. William Ramsay, of Charlotte Square, took great pleasure in talking of his father, and used to affirm that he was the best judge of horses and dogs in the kingdom.









I. RAESIT 1791

A HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN

No. LXXVIII.

THE MARQUIS OF HUNTRY,

AFTERWARDS

DUKE OF GORDON.

THIS Print represents the MARQUIS OF HUNTRY, when about the age of twenty-one. He was born at Edinburgh on the 1st of February 1770. His first entry on public life was by adopting the profession of arms, and in being appointed Captain of an independent company of Highlanders raised by himself in 1790. and with which he joined the 42d Regiment, or Royal Highlanders, the following year. Shortly afterwards, the regiment remained nearly a twelvemonth in Edinburgh Castle, during which period Kay embraced the opportunity of etching the "Highland Chieftain."<sup>1</sup>

In 1792 he entered the 3d Regiment of Foot Guards as Captain-lieutenant. In 1793, when orders were issued by his Majesty to embody seven regiments of Scottish fencibles, the Duke of Gordon not only raised the Gordon Fencibles, but the Marquis made an offer to furnish a regiment for more extended service. Early in 1794 he accordingly received authority for this purpose, and so much did the family enter into the spirit of constitutional loyalty, that, besides the Marquis, both the Duke and Duchess of Gordon "recruited in their own person." The result of such canvassing was soon manifest; in the course of three months the requisite numbers were completed, and the corps embodied at Aberdeen on the 24th June. As a matter of course the Marquis was appointed Lieutenant-colonel Commandant.

The first movement of the "Gordon Highlanders" was to England, where they joined the camp at Netley Common, in Southamptonshire, and were entered in the list of regular troops as the 100th regiment. They were soon afterwards despatched to the Mediterranean, where the Marquis accompanied them, and where they remained for several years. Leaving his regiment at Gibraltar, his lordship embarked on board a packet at Corunna, on his passage home; but, after having been three days at sea, the vessel was taken by a French privateer, and the Marquis was plundered of every thing valuable: he was then

<sup>1</sup> The daring exploit—a race on horseback, from the Abbey Strand, at the foot of the Canongate, to the Castle gate—betwixt the Marquis and another sporting nobleman, which occurred about this period, will be remembered by many of the inhabitants of Edinburgh.

placed on board a Swedish ship, in which he arrived at Falmouth in September 1796.

The "Gordon Highlanders" returned to Britain in 1798, but in consequence of the disturbances then breaking out in Ireland, they were immediately hurried off there. The Marquis directly followed, resumed the command, and was actively employed with the regiment until tranquillity was restored. Notwithstanding the irksome and disagreeable nature of a soldier's duty connected with civil commotion, the conduct of the "Gordon Highlanders" in Ireland was highly exemplary; so much so, that on leaving the county of Wexford, in which district they had been principally employed, an address was presented by the magistrates and inhabitants to the Marquis, in which, after paying a marked compliment to the orderly conduct of the men, they stated that "peace and order were established, rapine had disappeared, confidence in the Government was restored, and the happiest cordiality subsisted since his regiment came among them."

In the expedition to the Helder, in 1799, the "Gordon Highlanders," whose number a short time previously had been changed to the 92d, with the Marquis at their head, formed part of General Moore's brigade, and although not engaged in repelling the first attack of the enemy, bore a distinguished part in the great action at Bergen on the 2d October, in which the Marquis was severely wounded.<sup>1</sup> So entirely did the conduct of the regiment on this occasion give satisfaction to General Moore, "that when he was made a Knight of the Bath, and obtained a grant of supporters for his armorial bearings, he took a soldier of the Gordon Highlanders, in full uniform, as one of these supporters, and a lion as the other."

The Marquis had obtained the rank of Colonel in the Army in 1796,—that of Major-general in 1801, and was placed on the North British Staff as such from 1803 till 1806, when he was appointed Colonel of the 42d, or Royal Highland Regiment.<sup>2</sup> At the general election of that year he was chosen Member of Parliament for Eye, in Suffolk; but he only remained a short time in the Commons, having been, on the change of ministry which soon followed, summoned by writ to the House of Peers, by the title of Baron Gordon of Huntly, in the county of Gloucester. In 1808 he was raised to the rank of Lieutenant-General in the Army; and the same year, on the resignation of his father the Duke of Gordon, the Marquis was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Aberdeen.

<sup>1</sup> His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales testified his approbation of the conduct of the Marquis on this occasion by the appropriate present of a Highland mull, set in gold, decorated with valuable Scotch pebbles, and inscribed with a handsome compliment in the Gaelic language.

<sup>2</sup> On the anniversary of the battle of Alexandria, the 21st March 1817, his Royal Highness the Duke of York, then President of the Highland Society, in the chair, presented the Marquis of Huntly, on behalf of the 42d Regiment, with a superb piece of plate, in token of the respect of the society for a corps which, for more than seventy years, had continued to uphold the martial character of their country. This his Royal Highness accompanied with an impressive speech, in which he recapitulated the various services of the corps, from the battle of Fontenoy down to those of Quatre Bras and Waterloo.

In the unfortunate "Walcheren Expedition," undertaken in 1809, under the late Earl of Chatham, the Marquis commanded the fourth division. The object of this armament, which had been fitted out on a very extensive scale, was the destruction of the fleet and arsenal at Antwerp, but except in the bombardment of Flushing, the expedition entirely failed of success.

With the Walcheren expedition closed the foreign military career of the Marquis of Huntly. His subsequent life was distinguished by a patriotic and active zeal in whatever tended to the honour or advantage of his native country. He was long a member, and frequently President, of the Highland Society, an association which has done so much to improve the agriculture and condition of the peasantry of Scotland. As a mark of distinction, in 1813, the Marquis was appointed General of the ancient body denominated the Royal Archers of Scotland, or King's Body Guard. Of the Celtic Society he was also an equally honoured member; and, in short, in all patriotic or national associations he was found to yield enthusiastic co-operation.

On the death of his lordship's father, in 1827, he succeeded to the dukedom of Gordon in Scotland, and the earldom of Norwich in England; and in the still more extended sphere of influence thus opened to him, the spirit which had animated the Marquis continued to be manifested in the Duke. The great improvements which he effected on his extensive estates—the exquisite taste displayed in laying out the grounds and ornamenting the lawns around the princely Castle of Gordon—together with his successful exertions in improving the breed of Highland cattle, and promoting agriculture, are well-known instances of the Duke's untiring zeal and perseverance.

He married, in 1813, Elizabeth, daughter of the late Alexander Brodie, Esq. of Arn Hall, but had no issue. His Grace died at London in June 1836,<sup>1</sup> and with him the dukedom of Gordon and earldom of Norwich became extinct. The title of Marquis of Huntly, and some of the inferior dignities, devolved to his Grace's "heir-male whatsoever," the Earl of Aboyne. The estates passed by virtue of an entail to his nephew, the Duke of Richmond.

<sup>1</sup> As a tribute to the memory of the Duke of Gordon, we beg to append the following letter of condolence to the Duchess from the Governors of the London Scottish Hospital, whose opportunities of knowing his Grace's exertions in the cause of charity give peculiar weight to their sentiments:

Unto her Grace Elizabeth Duchess of Gordon, Marchioness of Huntly, Countess of Huntly, Enzie, and Norwich, Viscountess of Inverness, etc. etc. etc. etc.

MADAM,

We, the Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, and Governors of the Scottish Hospital of the foundation of King Charles the Second, re-incorporated by King George the Third, in General Court assembled, beg leave thus to offer our heartfelt condolence upon the severe bereavement with which God in his Providence has seen meet to make trial of your "faith and patience."

Be assured, Madam, that it is not in the observance of a mere formality, but because of that affectionate regard which we must ever entertain for the memory of our late noble President, that we intrude thus early upon that grief in which we do sincerely participate.

When, at the command of our present most gracious King and Patron, the Duke of Gordon entered upon the Presidency of this Institution, we congratulated ourselves on the acquisition of a nobleman whose ancient and honourable lineage, and whose generous, chivalrous character, concurred with his previous knowledge of the Society, and zeal for its interests, to recommend him to our

In the foregoing sketch the character of the late Duke of Gordon has been drawn chiefly from the events of his public career. His conduct in the social relations of domestic life will be best estimated by those—and there are many—who had an opportunity of personal intercourse. Although not present on the memorable event of the King's Visit to Scotland in 1822, his name was not forgotten by the Scottish muse on that occasion. In the “Highland Chieftains' Welcome” the Marquis is thus eulogised :—

“ And Huntly, at once the delight and the glory,  
The boast and the pride of the clans of the north ;  
Renowned not more in warrior's story,  
Than in home's happy circle, for true manly worth.”

In the second part of “Carle now the King's come,” by the late Sir Walter Scott, he is also familiarly alluded to :—

“ Cock o' the North, my Huntly bra',  
Where are you with my Forty-twa ?  
Oh ! wae's my heart that ye're awa'—  
Carle now the King's come !”

The Marquis obtained the distinctive appellation of the “Cock o' the North,” in allusion to his spirited conduct, as well as to the circumstance of his being the representative of an ancient and powerful family. Amid the occasional frolics of youth and the allurements of high life, however, the native goodness of his heart continued uncorrupted; he was an especial friend to the poor,

affection and confidence; and we had fondly hoped that he might have been yet spared to us for many years, to strengthen our hands in the cause of charity, and to watch over the interests of the Scottish poor in this Metropolis.

Of those excellencies which so strongly commended to us your late noble lord as the most fitting person to occupy the chair of this ancient Corporation, we can now only cherish the recollection—a recollection which, we feel assured, is shared with us by his Sovereign who honoured him, and by his countrymen who loved him; and, if we might allude to any topic of consolation less elevated than that which religion affords, we would particularise that heartfelt grief experienced at his loss by every one who was favoured by his friendship, or who came within the sphere of his beneficence.

It is not the office-bearers of this Institution only who have reason to lament the decease of their late President; for, in the death of the Duke of Gordon, Scotland has lost one of her most illustrious Noblemen, Great Britain one of her most consistent Statesmen, the King of these realms one of the firmest supporters of his throne, the cause of charity, generally, one of its most liberal contributors, and you, Madam, especially, have lost a companion, friend, and husband, by a stroke which can be healed by Him only who hath brought life and immortality to light by his Gospel.

We embrace this opportunity of conveying to your Grace our hearty acknowledgments for your countenance and support so liberally bestowed on this charity, in co-operation with your late lamented husband.

In conclusion, we are aware of our inability to estimate the depth of your Grace's sorrow. We know that your heart must be overflowing with grief, and to bid you check its present outpourings were to bid you do violence to the course of nature; but we recommend you unto Him who, having smitten, can also heal—wishing you that peace which proceedeth from believing, and after a prolonged life of usefulness in this world, in the world to come “that Crown of Glory, which is eternal in the Heavens.”

Given under our common Seal, at our Hall, Crane Court, Fleet Street, on Wednesday the  
Twenty-ninth of June, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-six.

L. S.

and kind and affable to all. In reference to this feature in his character, the following pleasing anecdote is told: A certain gentleman, "clothed with a little brief authority," was allowed by the Duke (the Marquis' father) a handsome sum annually for incidental charities. It was, however, strongly suspected that not one farthing of the money was expended among the poor. The rumour having reached Huntly's ears, he resolved upon an expedient to ascertain whether the general suspicions were well founded. Having attired himself in the lowly guise of a beggar, he repaired to the house of the little great personage; and there assuming the "trembling steps" of three-score-and-ten, he knocked at the door and solicited alms. One of the menials ordered him to be gone—as no beggar was allowed access to the house. In well-feigned accents the mock-mendicant pleaded his absolute necessity, and expressed his confidence that the master himself would not use him so. The master at length appeared with a stern countenance, and in spite of the beggar's tale of deep distress, threatened, if he did not instantly depart, to "hound the dogs at him." Thus thoroughly convinced that the charges were not without foundation, the Marquis took care to be present at the next annual settlement, when the usual debit—"to incidental charities"—appearing as formerly, he drew his pen through the entry, at the same time reminding the pretended almoner of his conduct to the beggar, and declaring that he would in future manage these charities himself.

It is said the Marquis was such an adept in the art of counterfeiting characters that even his most intimate associates were occasionally made the dupes of his deceptions. Some of his exploits happening to become the topic of conversation on one occasion, a gentleman present took a bet with his lordship that he for one would be proof against his art, let him assume whatever disguise he might. The wager was instantly accepted; and in the course of a few days afterwards the Marquis had himself rigged out in all the ragged paraphernalia of a veteran gaberlunzie—with budgets and wallets arranged in such a manner that even *Edie Ochiltree* might not have been ashamed of the personification. Thus equipped, he proceeded to the mansion of his friend; and having on his journey avoided neither "dub nor mire," he seemed the very picture of one of those sturdy mendicants of whom the country was prolific during last century. He met the lord of the manor in the avenue leading to the house, to whom he gave the obeisance due from a person of his assumed calling; and after gratifying his curiosity by answering a few inquiries, he was ordered by the gentleman to the hall, and there to "see what he could find fitting for a keen appetite." Huntly accordingly stalked into the hall, where he was served with an ample plate of cold meat and abundance of bread and beer; but he partook very sparingly, and in short enacted this part of his assumed character so indifferently as to call forth a remark from the housekeeper, that "to be a rachel-looking carle he had a very gentle stomach." Having thus far succeeded without discovery, Huntly resolved to make a still bolder attempt on his friend's boasted discrimination. Quitting the house, he studiously crossed the path of the gentleman,

and again made his obeisance. "Well, old boy," said the latter, with his wonted good humour, "how did you fare at the hall?" "Very so so, indeed," replied Huntly; "nothing but cold beef, sour bread, and stale beer." "You must truly be a saucy scoundrel!" exclaimed the gentleman, nettled by the arrogant reply. "Not exactly that," continued Huntly, "but I have never been accustomed to such low fare." Irritated beyond endurance by the provokingly cool impudence of the supposed mendicant, the gentleman threatened to have him *caged*, and actually called some of the domestics to lay hands upon him, when, like the *Gudeman o' Ballangiech* (in one of his nocturnal adventures), he doffed his

"Duddie clouts—his meally bags an' a,'"

and stood forward in his own proper person, to the utter amazement of the bystanders, and the conviction of his defeated friend, whose wrath was quickly changed to merriment.

#### No. LXXIX.

### SIR JAMES MONTGOMERY OF STANHOPE

AND

DAVID STUART MONCRIEF, ESQ. OF MOREDUN,

HIS MAJESTY'S BARONS OF EXCHEQUER.

LORD CHIEF-BARON MONTGOMERY, who is represented by the figure on the left, was the second and youngest son of William Montgomery, Esq. of Macbiehill,<sup>1</sup> Tweeddale, and was born in 1721.

Sir James, being educated for the law, became a member of the faculty of advocates soon after he had attained his majority. His talents were by no means of the highest order; yet, by judicious mental cultivation—by throwing aside all ingenious subtleties, and boldly grasping at the solid practical view of every question, he in time acquired the character of a sound lawyer.

In 1748, when the Scottish heritable jurisdictions were finally abolished, Sir

<sup>1</sup> This gentleman was a devoted agriculturist at a period when that useful branch of knowledge was too little attended to in this country. He had the merit of introducing an early species of peas and of oats, which were named after his estate of Macbiehill; but the latter has for these last forty years been more generally known as the "red-oat." So early as 1745, he cultivated potatoes, to the extent of several acres annually; but the land so cultivated was uniformly sown down with bear and artificial grasses. He sold his potatoes by the Tweeddale oat-firlot streaked, at sixteen shillings per boll, an amazingly high sum at that period.



London 1788

79



James was one of the first sheriffs appointed by the crown. He obtained the sheriffdom of Tweeddale, his native county ; and it may be noticed that he was the last survivor of all those appointed at the same period. His conduct as a judge in this situation—the more irksome from its being the first of a new order of things—proved so highly satisfactory, that in 1764 he was promoted to the office of Solicitor-General for Scotland, and elected to represent his native county in the British Parliament. A few years after he was still farther honoured by the appointment of Lord Advocate ; and in 1777, on the death of Lord Chief-Baron Ord, he was appointed Lord Chief-Baron of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer.<sup>1</sup> This situation he held until 1801, when he found it necessary to retire from public business. The title of Baronet was then conferred upon him (July 16, 1801), as a mark of royal esteem for his long and faithful services.

Sir James, like his father, had early formed a just estimate of the importance of agriculture as a study ; and, even amid the laborious duties of his official appointments, was enthusiastic in its pursuits. On his farm of Wester-Deans, in the parish of Newlands, he had turnips in drills, dressed by a regular process of horse-hoeing, so early as 1757 ; and he was among the first, if not the very first, in Scotland who introduced the light horse-plough, instead of the old cumbrous machine which, on the most favourable soil, required four horses and a driver to manage them.

For the purpose of enlarging his practical knowledge, Sir James travelled over the most fertile counties of England, and embraced every opportunity which could possibly tend to aid him in promoting his patriotic design of improving the agriculture of his native country. The means of reclaiming waste lands in particular occupied a large share of his attention. His first purchase was a portion of land, remarkable for its unimprovable appearance, lying upon the upper extremities of the parishes of Newlands and Eddleston. This small estate, selected apparently for the purpose of demonstrating the practicability of a favourite theory, obtained the designation of the "*Whim*," a name which it has since retained. He also rented, under a long lease, a considerable range of contiguous ground from Lord Portmore. Upon these rude lands, which consisted chiefly of a deep moss soil, Sir James set to work, and speedily proved what could be accomplished by capital, ingenuity, and industry. In a few years the "*Whim*" became one of the most fertile spots in that part of the country.

His next purchase was the extensive estate of Stanhope,<sup>2</sup> lying in the parishes of Stobo, Drumellier, and Tweedsmuir, and consisting principally of mountainous sheep-walks. Here, too, he effected great improvements, by erecting enclosures where serviceable—planting numerous belts of young trees—and building com-

<sup>1</sup> He was the first Scotsman who held this office since the establishment of the Court in 1707.

<sup>2</sup> These lands belonged to Sir Alexander Murray of Stanhope, Baronet—the husband of that Lady Murray, whose beautiful memoirs of her father and mother were, for the first time, printed under the superintendence of Thomas Thomson, Esquire, from the original MS., in 1822, 8vo. Her husband ruined himself by his wild speculations, and his paternal estate passed to other hands.

fortable farm-houses and other premises for his tenantry, to whom he afforded every inducement to lay out capital, by granting long leases, and otherwise securing to them the prospect of reaping the reward of their industry. To such management as this the extraordinary agricultural advancement of Scotland, during the last half-century, is mainly owing—an advancement which the present tenant-at-will system (extensively prevalent in certain districts of the country), threatens seriously to impede, if not thoroughly to counteract. Sir James also possessed the estate of Killeen, in Stirlingshire, which he obtained by marriage.

On attaining the dignity of Chief-Baron, Sir James found himself in possession of more leisure than he could previously command; but this relaxation from official duties only tended to increase his labours in the cause of public improvement. He was one of the most useful members of the Board of Trustees for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce in Scotland; and it may be observed with truth that a great portion of the business of the Board latterly devolved upon him. His extreme kindness of disposition, readiness of access, and the universal estimation in which he was held, led him into a multiplicity of gratuitous, but not the less salutary or important labour. In the arrangement of private affairs among his neighbours, and in becoming the honoured arbiter in matters of dispute, he was so frequently engaged as materially to interfere with his own convenience; but whether to persons of his own rank, or to the poor, his opinions were equally and always open.

Sir James died in April 1803. He married Margaret, daughter and heiress of Robert Scott of Killeen, county Stirling, who survived him, and lived till the 17th of February 1806. His eldest son, Colonel William Montgomery, died a few years before him. His second son, Sir James, inherited the title and estates, and was some time Lord Advocate and Member for the county of Tweeddale. His third son, Archibald, went to the East-Indies; and his fourth son, Robert, was an English barrister. His eldest daughter was married to Robert Nutter, Esquire of Kailzie—the youngest to Major Hart of the East India Service. The second daughter remained unmarried.

“Sir James,” says a biographical notice written immediately after his death, “was in stature a little taller than the middle size, of a remarkably slender make; his air, though not undignified, had more in it of winning grace than of overawing command. His appearance in his old age was particularly interesting; his complexion clear and cloudless; his manner serene and cheerful. Two pictures of him are preserved, for which he sat when above eighty years old; one at Stobbs House, the other at Kailzie.” Sir James at one time lived in the third flat of the Bishop’s Land, formerly occupied by Lord President Dundas. He subsequently removed to Queensberry House, situated near the foot of the Canongate, the use of which he gratuitously obtained from Duke William.

MR. MONCRIEF of Moredun, the venerable-looking old gentleman on the right, entered as a member of the Faculty of Advocates at an early age, but he never made a distinguished figure as a lawyer. His temper was naturally distant and reserved ; and, far from seeking those intimacies which usually contribute to bring many a person of inferior ability into practice, he rather shunned than courted society.

He was very early promoted to the office of King's Remembrancer in the Exchequer Court, the duties of which he discharged for many years with fidelity and attention. He was then preferred to the more elevated station of a Baron of the Exchequer, and in this situation fully maintained the character which he had previously acquired for regularity and despatch of business.

Baron Moncrief continued all his life a bachelor ; and, although by no means parsimonious, amassed a considerable fortune. He took much pleasure in cultivating the garden at Moredun,<sup>1</sup> which, with great labour and expense, he brought to the highest state of perfection. He was for many years most attentive in presenting His Grace the Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly with such rarities as his garden afforded. Prior to his removal to Moredun, Mr. Moncrief occupied that self-contained house in the Horse Wynd, next door to the shop of Mr. Paton, carver and gilder.

Sir Thomas Moncrief, Baronet, of that Ilk, was the Baron's nephew, and nearest heir. Mr. Kay, in his MS. notes, mentions that the uncle, being anxious to engage his nephew in a matrimonial alliance of his own choosing, succeeded in completing a match between Sir Thomas and Lady Elizabeth Ramsay, sister of the Earl of Dalhousie. On the celebration of the marriage the Baron was very liberal, and presented all the domestics of Sir Thomas with handsome presents, in honour of the auspicious occasion : but as

“ The best laid schemes of men and mice  
Gang aft agae,”

so in this case the marriage did not realise that domestic felicity which the good-hearted bachelor had so fondly anticipated.

It is possible that neither party had consulted their own feelings in the matter ; but, be that as it may, the Baron conceived that the lady had been indifferently treated by his nephew, and he did not hesitate to declare so. At his death—as a substantial proof of his esteem for the one, and his disapprobation of the conduct of the other—he left the lady his estate of Moredun, and all the other property of which he could deprive his heir-at-law.

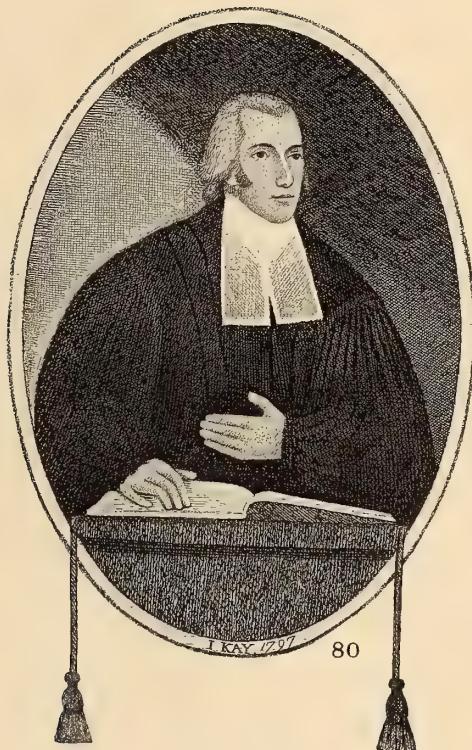
<sup>1</sup> Moredun is in the parish of Liberton, and about three miles from Edinburgh. It is now the property of David Anderson, Esq., of the firm of Sir William Forbes and Company, bankers in Edinburgh. The garden, so much the favourite of the Baron, is still cultivated with peculiar care, and does great credit to its present proprietor.

No. LXXX.

REV. GREVILLE EWING.

As the subject of this sketch is still alive, and engaged in public service, propriety forbids our entering into the minuter details of his personal history. He is a native of Edinburgh, where he was born in 1767. Being originally designed for a secular profession, he was, at the usual age, bound apprentice to an engraver. A strong desire, however, to be engaged in the work of the ministry induced him, at the close of his apprenticeship, to relinquish his intended profession and devote himself to study. He accordingly entered the University of Edinburgh, where he passed through the usual curriculum of preparatory discipline ; and, in the year 1792, he was licensed to preach in connection with the National Church by the Presbytery of Hamilton. A few months after this he was ordained, as colleague with Dr. Jones, to the office of minister of Lady Glenorchy's Chapel, Edinburgh.

A deep interest in the cause of missions seems, at an early period of Mr. Ewing's ministry, to have occupied his mind. At that time such enterprises were to a great degree novelties in this country ; and even, by many who wished them well, great doubts were entertained of their ultimate success. By his exertions and writings he contributed much to excite a strong feeling in regard to them in Edinburgh ; nor did he content himself with this, but, fired with a spirit of true disinterested zeal, he determined to devote himself to the work of preaching the gospel to the heathen. For this purpose he united with a party of friends, like-minded with himself, who had formed a plan of going out to India and settling themselves there as teachers of Christianity to the native population. The individuals principally engaged in this undertaking besides Mr. Ewing, were the Rev. David Bogue, D.D., of Gosport ; the Rev. William Innes, then one of the ministers of Stirling, now of Edinburgh ; and Robert Haldane, Esq. of Airthrey, near Stirling,—by the latter of whom the expenses of the mission were to be defrayed. With the exception of Dr. Bogue, all these gentlemen still survive. The peremptory refusal of the East India Company, after repeated applications and memorials on the subject, to permit their going out, caused the ultimate abandonment of this scheme. Mr. Ewing, however, and his associates, feeling themselves pledged to the missionary cause, and seeing no opening for going abroad, began to exert themselves for the promotion of religion at home. A periodical, under the title of *The Missionary Magazine*, was started in Edinburgh, of which Mr. Ewing undertook the editorship, the duties of which office he discharged in the most efficient manner for the first three years





of its existence.<sup>1</sup> Exertions of a missionary kind were also made in different parts of Scotland, where a necessity for such appeared.

Out of these efforts ultimately arose the secession of Messrs. Ewing and Innes from the National Church ; for, feeling themselves hampered in their efforts among their countrymen by the restrictions which an Establishment necessarily imposes, they were led—from this, as well as from other considerations of a conscientious kind—to resign their respective charges, and occupy themselves in preaching the gospel without being connected with any religious denomination whatever. They very soon, however, adopted the principles of Independency, or Congregationalism ; after which Mr. Ewing removed to Glasgow, where he still remains as the pastor of a large and influential Congregational church.

In connection with his pastoral duties, Mr. Ewing has, for many years, sustained the office of divinity Professor to the denomination with which he is connected. In this office he is associated with Dr. Wardlaw, the well-known author of *Lectures on the Socinian Controversy*, and other valuable theological works. The services of both these distinguished men are perfectly gratuitous, and are rendered for six months in the year.

Mr. Ewing, though at present a widower, has been three times married. His first wife was the sister of his friend, Mr. Innes ; but neither she nor his second wife, whose maiden name was Jamieson, were long spared after their marriage. His last wife, who was a daughter of the late Sir John Maxwell of Pollock, Bart., died a few years ago, in consequence of a melancholy accident experienced by the overturning of their carriage, while she, with her husband and a party of friends, were visiting the scenery on the banks of the Clyde, near Lanark. A singularly interesting memoir has been given to the public by her husband. He has one child—a daughter—by his second marriage, who is now the wife of the Rev. Dr. Matheson of Durham.

Mr. Ewing has appeared frequently before the public as an author. His principal works are, *Essays to the Jews*, Lond., 1809—*An Essay on Baptism*, 2d edit. Glasg., 1824—*A Greek Grammar, and Greek and English Lexicon*, published first in 1801 ; again in 1812 ; and again, in a very enlarged form, in 1827. These, and all his other writings, are marked by extensive and accurate learning, ingenuity of argument, and, where the subject is such as to admit of it, by great vigour and eloquence of composition. They have proved of eminent service to the cause of sound and literate theology.

In private life Mr. Ewing is distinguished by that pervading courteousness and cheerfulness which form such important ingredients in the character of the perfect gentleman. In his younger days his countenance is said to have been very handsome ; and even now, in his 70th year, it is highly prepossessing. Kay's portrait was taken while he was minister of Lady Glenorchy's Chapel.

<sup>1</sup> This periodical has continued till the present day, under the successive titles of “The Missionary Magazine,” “The Christian Herald,” and “The Scottish Congregational Magazine.” It has, for nearly the last forty years, been the recognised organ of the Congregational Churches of Scotland.

No. LXXXI.

THE EARL OF HOPETOUN,

WITH A DISTANT VIEW OF THE HOPETOUN FENCIBLES.

THE immediate ancestor of the Earls of Hopetoun was Henry Hope, a merchant of considerable extent in Edinburgh, who married Jacqueline de Tott, a French lady, by whom he had two sons. The eldest, Thomas, was bred a lawyer; and, by his eminent talents, obtained great practice and amassed a considerable fortune, with which he made extensive landed purchases. He was appointed Lord Advocate by James VI., and created a Baronet in 1628. His grandson, Charles, was the first Earl of Hopetoun. Henry, the second son, went to Amsterdam, and was the ancestor of that opulent branch of the family long settled there.

JAMES, third Earl, the subject of this sketch, was born in 1741. He entered the army when very young, and held an ensign's commission in the 3d Regiment of Foot Guards. He was with the troops in Germany; and, when only eighteen years of age, was engaged at the memorable battle of Minden, in 1759, where the British infantry signally distinguished themselves. He continued in the same regiment till 1764, when he retired from the army, in consequence of the ill health of his elder brother, Lord Hope, with whom he travelled some time on the Continent, but without producing any beneficial change in the state of his health, and who died in 1766. On the death of his father, in 1781, he succeeded to the earldom, and was chosen one of the sixteen representative Peers of Scotland at the general election in 1784. The Earl took an active part in all political questions, and continued to sit in the House of Lords during a great many succeeding years.

On the death of his grand-uncle, the third Marquis of Annandale, in 1792, Lord Hopetoun succeeded to the large estates of that nobleman, on which occasion he added the surname of Johnstone to his own. On the breaking out of the French war in 1793, when seven regiments of fencibles were directed by his Majesty to be raised in Scotland, the Earl, who was firmly and sincerely attached to the British Constitution, stood forward in defence of his country, and embodied a corps called the Southern or Hopetoun Fencibles, of which he was appointed Colonel. The officers belonging to this regiment were men of the first rank and respectability: Lord Napier was Lieutenant-colonel; the veteran Clarkson, Major; the Earl of Home, Captain of Grenadiers; Mr. Bailie of Mellerstain, and Mr. M'Lean of Ardgower, Captains, etc. etc. The Earl assiduously attended to his military duties, and soon brought the discipline of the corps to great perfection.

While the regiment was stationed at Dalkeith, several attempts were made





by some of the more desperate members of the British Convention to seduce the soldiers from their allegiance, or at all events to sow the seeds of discontent among them, but without effect.

At Dumfries, where the corps was quartered in 1794, the following curious circumstance occurred :—“One of the Hopetoun Fencibles, now quartered in that town,” says a newspaper of the day, “was discovered to be a woman, after having been upwards of eighteen months in the service. The discovery was made by the tailor, when he was trying on the new clothes. It is remarkable that she has concealed her sex so long, considering she always slept with a comrade, and sometimes with two. She went by the name of John Nicolson, but her real name was Jean Clark. Previous to her assuming the character of a soldier, it seems she had accustomed herself to the dress and habits of a man ; having been bred to the business of a weaver at Closeburn, and employed as a man-servant at Ecclefechan.”

The services of the Hopetoun Fencibles were at first limited to Scotland, but were afterwards extended to England. They remained embodied till 1798, when they were disbanded, after the regular militia had been organised.

His lordship afterwards, as Lord Lieutenant of the county of Linlithgow, embodied a yeomanry corps and a regiment of volunteer infantry, both of which were among the first that tendered their services to Government. These he commanded as Colonel, and took a deep interest and a very active part in training them, and rendering them efficient for the public service. During those times of alarm, when the country was threatened by foreign invasion, his influence, his fortune, and his personal exertions were steadily devoted to the public safety ; and so much were his services appreciated by the Executive, that he was created a Baron of the United Kingdom in 1809, by the name, style, and title of Baron Hopetoun of Hopetoun.

The Earl died at Hopetoun House, on the 29th May 1816, at the advanced age of 75. He married, in 1756, Elizabeth, daughter of the Earl of Northesk, by whom he had six daughters. They all died prior to himself, except Lady Anne, upon whom the Annandale estates devolved, and who married Admiral Sir William Johnstone.

Inheriting from his ancestors high rank and ample fortune, Lord Hopetoun maintained the dignity and noble bearing of the ancient Scotch baron, with the humility of a Christian, esteeming the religious character of his family to be its highest distinction ; and he was not more eminent for the regularity of his attendance on all the ordinances of religion, than for the sincerity and reverence with which he engaged in them. He was an indulgent landlord, a most munificent benefactor to the poor, and a friend to all who lived within the limits of his extensive domains.

The following lines, written at the period of his death, describe his estimable character in glowing and forcible language :—

" For worth revered, lo ! full of years,  
     Does Hopetoun to the tomb descend,  
     Amid the sorrowing people's tears,  
         Who mourn their constant, kindest friend.

Oft have I heard, as o'er his land  
     I wandered in my youthful days,  
     The farmer bless his fostering hand,  
         And ploughman's ruder note of praise.

Oft, too, in Humbie's fairy vale—  
     Romantic vale ! so sweetly wild—  
     Of Hopetoun have I heard the tale  
         Of sorrow soothed or want beguiled.

The mausoleum may arise,  
     Displaying well the sculptor's art ;  
     But far superior are the sighs  
         That rise from many a wounded heart.

The historic record shall survive,  
     And unimpaired its meed bestow ;  
     The legendary tribute live  
         When time has laid the structure low.

In early life to warfare trained,  
     He gained the glory arms can yield ;  
     When Gallia had her lilies stained  
         On Minden's memorable field.

Hence wreathed, the titled path he trod—  
     A path (how few pursue his plan !)  
     Bright, marked with piety to God  
         And warm benevolence to man.

The niche he leaves a brother fills,  
     Whose prowess fame has blazoned wide ;  
     Long, long o'er Scotia's vales and hills  
         Shall Niddry's deeds be told with pride !"

Having no male issue, the Earl of Hopetoun was succeeded by his half-brother John, fourth Earl, G.C.B., and General in the Army, who had distinguished himself so much by his gallantry and abilities in the West Indies in 1794 ; in Holland in 1799 ; and at the battles of Corunna, Bayonne, Bourdeaux, and Toulouse. For these services he was created a British Peer in 1814, by the title of Baron Niddry. He died at Paris on the 27th August 1823. A handsome equestrian statue has lately been erected to his memory in St. Andrew Square, in front of the Royal Bank, by the citizens of Edinburgh.

Earl John was twice married,—first, in 1798, to Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Charles Hope Vere of Craighall, who died without issue in 1801 ; secondly, in 1803, to Louisa Dorothea, third daughter of Sir John Wedderburn of Ballendean, by whom he had twelve children,<sup>1</sup> of whom seven sons and

<sup>1</sup> It will be recollect that when George IV. visited Scotland in 1822, his Majesty embarked at Port-Edgar, having previously partaken of a repast at Hopetoun House with the Earl, his family, and a select company assembled for the occasion. While at breakfast, one of the Earl's sons, a lively





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one daughter still survive. John, the eldest, succeeded to the titles, and married, in 1826, Louisa Bosville, eldest daughter of the late Lord Macdonald, by whom he has issue one son. His lordship's remaining six brothers and one sister are all unmarried. James, the second son, was for some time Member of Parliament for the county of Linlithgow. The Countess-Dowager died at Leamington 1836.

## No. LXXXII.

## CHARLES HAY, ESQ., ADVOCATE,

TAKEN A SHORT TIME BEFORE HIS ELEVATION TO THE BENCH.

CHARLES HAY, son of James Hay, Esq. of Cocklaw, Writer to the Signet, was born in 1747.<sup>1</sup> After the usual preparatory course of education, he passed advocate in 1768, having just attained the years of majority; but, unlike most young practitioners, Hay had so thoroughly studied the principles of the law "that he has been frequently heard to declare he was as good a lawyer at that time as he ever was at any after period." He soon became distinguished by his strong natural abilities, as well as by his extensive knowledge of the profession, which embraced alike the minutest forms of the daily practice of the Court and the highest and most subtle points of jurisprudence. As a pleader he was very effective. His pleadings were never ornamental, but entirely free of "those little arts by which a speaker often tries to turn the attention of his

boy about twelve years of age, came into the room and sat beside his mother. The King asked the Countess how many children she had? On being answered by her ladyship that she had ten sons and an infant daughter, his Majesty, either struck by the number of male children, or by the beautiful and youthful appearance of the mother, exclaimed, "Good God! is it possible?" After breakfast, Lady Alicia, then an infant, was presented to his Majesty, by whom she was affectionately kissed. Thomas and Adrian, the two youngest sons, were next led into the dining-room, and presented by the Earl to his royal guest. The king graciously received the little boys; and raising Adrian's frock, took hold of his leg, saying, "What a stout little fellow!" The child, thinking the King was admiring his frock, held it up with both his hands, and cried, "See, see!" His Majesty was amused with the notion of the child, and said, "Is that a new frock, my little man?" The other sons of Lord Hopetoun were presented to the King in the drawing-room. During his Majesty's short visit at Hopetoun House, the honour of knighthood was conferred on Captain Adam Fergusson and Mr. Henry Raeburn, the celebrated painter. Notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather, the lawns around the princely mansion presented a scene of a most animating description. Great preparations had been made for the reception of his Majesty, and an immense concourse of all ranks, including a body of his lordship's tenantry on horseback, were assembled to greet their sovereign. The band of Royal Archers, who acted as the King's body-guard, were in attendance, under the command of the Earl of Elgin. The Earl of Hopetoun was the commander-general of this ancient body, and acted as such on the day of his Majesty's arrival at Holyrood-House. As a memorial of that event, they entreated the Earl to sit for his picture in the dress which he wore on the occasion. The painting was executed by Mr. John Watson, and has been hung up in the Archers' Hall.

<sup>1</sup> He is said to have been descended from the Hays of Rannes, an ancient branch of the family of Hay.

auditors on himself ;" at the same time they were acute, argumentative, and to the purpose.

Mr. Hay was, during the whole course of his life, a staunch Whig of the old school. In 1806, on the death of David Smythe, Lord Methven, he was promoted by the Fox Administration to the bench, when he assumed the title of Lord Newton. This appointment was the only one which took place in the Court of Session during what was termed the reign of "the Talents,"—a circumstance on which it is said he always professed to set a high value.

Whilst at the bar, the opinions of his lordship were probably never surpassed for their acuteness, discrimination, and solidity ; and as a judge he now showed that all this was the result of such a rapid and easy application of the principles of law, as appeared more like the effect of intuition than of study and laborious exertion.

Perhaps in none of his predecessors or contemporaries were so happily blended those masculine energies of mind, so requisite to constitute the profound lawyer, with that good nature and unpresuming simplicity so endearing in private life. "Those who saw him only on the bench were naturally led to think that his whole time and thoughts had for all his life been devoted to the laborious study of the law. Those, on the other hand, who knew him in the circle of his friends, when form and austerity were laid aside, could not easily conceive that he had not passed his life in the intercourse of society." He possessed an extraordinary fund of good-humour, amounting almost to playfulness, and entirely devoid of vanity or affectation. There was, perhaps, a strong dash of eccentricity in his character ; but his peculiarities appeared in the company of so many estimable qualities that they only tended to render him more interesting to his friends. His lordship was of a manly and firm mind, having almost no fear of personal danger. He possessed great bodily strength and activity till the latter years of his life, when he became excessively corpulent.

#### No. LXXXIII.

#### LORD NEWTON ON THE BENCH.

LORD NEWTON's extraordinary judicial talents and social eccentricities are the subjects of numerous anecdotes. On the bench he frequently indulged in a degree of lethargy not altogether in keeping with the dignity of the long robe, and which, to individuals unacquainted with his habits, might well seem to interfere with the proper discharge of his duties. On one occasion, while a very zealous but inexperienced counsel was pleading before him, his lordship had been dozing, as usual, for some time—till at last the young man, supposing him asleep, and confident of a favourable judgment in his case, stopped short





in his pleading, and addressing the other lords on the bench, said—"My lords it is unnecessary that I should go on, as Lord Newton is fast asleep." "Ay, ay," cried Newton, whose faculties were not in the least affected by the leaden god, "you will have proof of that by and by," when, to the astonishment of the young advocate, after a most luminous review of the case, he gave a very decided and elaborate judgment against him.

Lord Newton participated deeply in the bacchanalian propensities so prevalent among lawyers of every degree during the last and beginning of the present century. He has been described as one of the "profoundest drinkers" of his day. A friend informs us that, when dining alone, his lordship was very abstemious; but, when in the company of his friends, he has frequently been known to put three "lang-craigs"<sup>1</sup> under his belt, with scarcely the appearance of being affected by it. On one of these occasions, he dictated to his clerk a law-paper of sixty pages which has been considered one of the ablest his lordship had ever been known to produce. The manuscript was sent to press without being read, and the proof sheets were corrected at the bar of the Inner House in the morning.

It has been stated that Lord Newton often spent the night in all manner of convivial indulgences—drove home about seven o'clock in the morning—slept two hours, and mounting the bench at the usual time, showed himself perfectly well qualified to perform his duty. Simond, the French traveller, relates that "he was quite surprised, on stepping one morning into the Parliament House, to find in the dignified capacity, and exhibiting all the dignified bearing of a judge, the very gentleman with whom he had just spent a night of debauch, and parted only an hour before, when both were excessively intoxicated." His lordship was also exceedingly fond of card-playing; so much so that it was humorously remarked, "Cards were his profession, and the law only his amusement."

During the sitting of the Session, Lord Newton, when an advocate constantly attended a club once a week, called "The Crochallan Fencibles," which met in Daniel Douglas's Tavern, Anchor Close, and consisted of a considerable number of literary men and wits of the very *first water*. The club assumed the name of *Crochallan* from the burthen of a Gaelic song which the landlord used sometimes to entertain the members with; and they chose to name their association *Fencibles*, because several military volunteer corps in Edinburgh then bore that appellation. In this club all the members held some pretended military rank or title. On the introduction of new members it was the custom to treat them at first with much apparent rudeness, as a species of initiation, or trial of their tempers and humours; and when this was done with prudence, Lord Newton was much delighted with the joke, and he was frequently engaged in drilling the recruits in this way. His lordship held the appoint-

<sup>1</sup> Long-necks—a name given by his lordship to bottles of claret, his favourite beverage.

ments of Major and Muster-Master General to the corps. The late Mr. Smellie introduced the poet Burns to this corps in January 1787, when Lord Newton and he were appointed to drill the bard, and they accordingly gave him a most severe castigation. Burns showed his good-humour by retaliating in an extemporeaneous effusion,<sup>1</sup> descriptive of Mr. Smellie, who held at that time the honourable office of *hangman* to the corps.

The eccentricities of Lord Newton were frequently a source of merriment amongst his friends. He had an unconquerable antipathy to punning, and in order to excite the uneasiness he invariably exhibited at all attempts of that nature, they studiously practised this novel species of punishment in his company.

His lordship had two estates (Newton and Faichfield), and was fond of agricultural improvements; although, like most other lawyers who cultivate their own lands, he did not know much about farming. One day, when shown a field of remarkably large turnips, he observed that, in comparison, those on his own grounds were only like “gouf ba’s” (golf balls)—an expression which his waggish friends frequently afterwards turned to his annoyance, by asking him how his “gouf ba’s” were looking.

We have already mentioned that Lord Newton was an uncompromising Whig. From his independent avowal of principles, and occasional vehement declamation against measures which he conceived to be wrong, he was dubbed by his opponents the “Mighty Goth.” This, however, was only in the way of good-natured banter: no man, perhaps, passed through life with fewer enemies, even among those who were his political opponents. All bore testimony to his upright conduct as a judge—to his talents as a lawyer—and to his honesty as a man.

Lord Newton died at Powrie, in Forfarshire, on the 19th of October 1811.<sup>2</sup> His lordship, who is understood not to have relished female society, was never married; and the large fortune which he left was inherited by his only sister, Mrs. Hay Mudie, for whom he always entertained the greatest affection.

<sup>1</sup> This excellent piece of good-natured satire appears in Burns’ Works under the title of “A Fragment.” The lines will be found inserted in our sketch of Mr. Smellie.

<sup>2</sup> Lord Newton, when an advocate, continued to wear the gown of Lockhart, “Lord Covington,” till it was in tatters, and at last had a new one made with a fragment of the neck of the original sewed into it, whereby he could still make it his boast that he wore “Covington’s gown.” Lord Covington died in 1782, in the eighty-second year of his age. He practised for upwards of half a century at the bar previous to his elevation to the bench in 1775. He and his friend, Ferguson of Pitfour, rendered themselves conspicuous by becoming voluntary counsels for the unfortunate prisoners tried at Carlisle in 1746, for their concern in the Rebellion, and especially by the ingenious means they devised to shake the wholesale accusations against them.





TWO NOBLE FRIENDS      84

## No. LXXXIV.

## THE EARL OF ERROL

AND

## THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD HADDO.

THE first of these “Noble Friends” (to the left), is GEORGE, fourteenth EARL of ERROL. He was born at Slanes Castle<sup>1</sup>—the principal seat of the family—in Aberdeenshire, in 1767. His father, James Lord Boyd, was the eldest son of Lord Kilmarnock, who suffered in 1746 on account of the Rebellion. Lord Boyd held a commission in the 21st Regiment of Foot at the time, and fought against the young Chevalier, whose cause his father had espoused. In 1758, on the death of his grand-aunt, he succeeded to the title as thirteenth Earl of Errol. The hereditary honour of Lord High Constable of Scotland was conferred by King Robert Bruce upon his lordship’s ancestor in 1315.

GEORGE, the subject of this sketch, succeeded to the title, while yet at Harrow School, by the death of his father in 1778. He purchased a cornetcy in the 1st Dragoons in 1780, being then only thirteen years of age. He afterwards held commissions in various regiments—was Major of the 78th Foot in 1793, and latterly Captain of a company in the 1st Regiment of Foot Guards.

At the general election in 1796, his lordship was elected one of the sixteen representatives of the Scottish Peerage. On this occasion the Earl of Lauderdale entered a protest against the votes of British Peers created since the Union; and also protested against the return of the Earl of Errol. In pursuance of this protest, Lauderdale presented a petition to the House of Lords against Errol, on the ground that, not being paternally descended from the High Constable, he did not hold his title consistently with the original charter. The petition was referred to a committee of privileges, and counsel were heard on both sides. The case was finally determined on the 19th of May 1797. The Lord Chancellor spoke at great length on the subject: He stated that the petition laid its principal stress on the Earl of Errol not being a male descendant, to which the original charter no doubt was limited; but it should be recollectcd that it was no uncommon thing formerly for the nobility to surrender their honours to the King, for the purpose of having them renewed, with some additional privileges, or relieved of some restrictions. This had been the case with Gilbert, tenth Earl of Errol. He surrendered his honours to the King in 1660, and had his charter renewed, which, instead of confirming it to male

<sup>1</sup> The old Castle of Slanes, formerly the principal residence of the Earls of Errol, was destroyed as far back as the early part of the reign of James VI. The greater part of the lands belonging to the barony are now in the possession of Colonel John Gordon of Cluny.

heirs, extended it first to the female line, and then vested in him the power of nomination. Of this power he availed himself, having a short time before his death, nominated Sir John Hay of Killour—the immediate ancestor of the present Earl—his successor; and of course, under that character, he held it by an undoubted right. The Lord Chancellor concluded by moving, “That the Earl of Errol is duly elected,” which motion passed unanimously.

The Earl did not long enjoy his seat. He died, after several months’ illness, at London, on the 14th June 1798.<sup>1</sup> His lordship married at Portpatrick, in 1790, Miss Blake, daughter of Joseph Blake of Ardfry, county of Galway, in Ireland; but leaving no issue by her, the title devolved on his brother.

The other noble friend represented in the Print, is the Right Honourable LORD HADDO, eldest son of the third Earl of Aberdeen, and brother to Lord Rockville, noticed in an early part of this work. He married, in 1782, Charlotte, youngest daughter of William Baird, Esq. of Newbyth, Haddingtonshire, and sister of the late gallant Sir David Baird, Bart. and K.B.

Lord Haddo was a young nobleman of considerable public spirit, and much esteemed by the citizens of Edinburgh. He was Grand Master Mason of Scotland in 1783 and the two following years, and presided at the meeting of the Grand Lodge in 1785, when the charter was granted for the institution of the “Lodge of the Roman Eagle,” formerly alluded to in our sketch of Dr. Brown. His name is also associated with one of the most important improvements in Edinburgh, he having the same year laid the foundation-stone of the South Bridge. The masonic display on this occasion was very splendid—upwards of eight hundred of the brethren walked in procession. The Grand Master was supported on the right by the Duke of Buccleuch, and on the left by the Earl of Balcarres. In the evening the Grand Lodge and a number of the nobility and gentry were invited by the Lord Provost to an elegant entertainment in Dunn’s Assembly-room.

Lord Haddo was cut off in the prime of life, in consequence of a fall from his horse. He died at Formartine, on the 2d October 1791. His lady did not long survive him: she died on the 8th October 1795. Their eldest son, George, succeeded to the earldom on the death of his grandfather in 1801; the second, William, entered the navy—he is presently M.P. for Aberdeenshire; the third, Alexander Gordon, was a lieutenant in the 3d Regiment of Foot Guards. He was aide-de-camp to his uncle, Sir David Baird, at the taking of the Cape of Good Hope, Buenos Ayres, and Copenhagen—and in the Spanish expedition in 1808. He was sent home with the despatches respecting the battle of Corunna. Lord Haddo left three other sons and one daughter.

<sup>1</sup> His lordship accompanied the expedition undertaken against Ostend the year previous. He was then labouring under the disease which terminated his existence, and was subject to occasional attacks of delirium. In this state of mind he is said to have disclosed the object of the expedition prematurely.





*Krynicki 1789*

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No. LXXXV.

VOLTAIRE, THE FRENCH PHILOSOPHER,

AND

MR. WATSON, AN EDINBURGH MESSENGER.

THE remarkable similarity of physiognomy existing between the Philosopher of Ferney and the humble Edinburgh Messenger was the cause of their heads being etched in the present form. About the period of the execution of this print, the Scottish capital was profuse in the display of odd characters ; and living portraiture<sup>1</sup> of some of the greatest men of the age were to be found walking the streets of the city. In Miles M'Phail the caddy, Lord North the British Prime Minister, might daily be seen shouldering a load of beef or mutton ; while, in the still more exact personification of old Watson the Messenger, the noted Philosopher of France became a petty process-server and a beagle of the law.

The likeness of the famous VOLTAIRE was copied by Kay from a painting on the lid of a snuff-box belonging to John Davidson, Esq., Writer to the Signet,<sup>2</sup> with which the head of Mr. Watson was placed in contrast, that the similarity, as well as any little difference of feature, might be more conspicuous.

<sup>1</sup> A very striking instance of the similar structure of faces is recorded in the Gallic Reports, in the case of Martin Guerre and Arnauld de Filk. The latter, taking advantage of the absence of the former, and having made himself master of the most minute circumstances of his life, through this surprising resemblance, so imposed himself, not only on the relations of Martin Guerre, but even upon his wife, that he was not suspected for several years ; and when at length, from some untoward circumstances, he fell under suspicion of being an impostor, he cheerfully submitted to a regular prosecution, in which he behaved with such address, that, of near 150 witnesses examined on the affair, between thirty and forty deposed that he was the true Martin Guerre, among whom were Martin's four sisters and two of their husbands ; and of the remainder of the witnesses, sixty and upwards declared the resemblance between the persons so strong that it was simply impossible to affirm with certainty whether the accused was the true Martin or not. In short, Arnauld de Filk for a long time puzzled the Parliament of Toulouse, even after the true Martin Guerre was returned, and they appeared together face to face.

At the present day, almost a counterpart of Napoleon will be found in the person of a celebrated foreign musician, presently resident in Edinburgh. He is distinguished by the same peculiarity in walking, his arms resting carelessly behind his back ; is of the same height, and the same cast of features.

A few years ago, a young gentleman was taken up in London on about fourteen different charges of swindling, and was brought to trial on what we would here term separate indictments. On one of these he was convicted, but on the rest was acquitted ; having, although positively sworn to, proved satisfactorily alibis in each of them. It turned out that the delinquencies had been perpetrated by an individual, his complete counterpart. Of course he received a free pardon in the instance where he had been convicted, and where he had been unable to prove an alibi.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Davidson obtained possession of the box while on a visit to Paris, where the likeness was considered remarkably faithful.

Why two heads, apparently so nearly proportioned, should have been distinguished, in the one case, by so *much* genius, and, in the other, by so *little*, we leave the phrenologists to determine. We need not tire our readers by any of our lucubrations on the life and character of the "Little Philosopher," whose writings and principles are so much interwoven with the late history of France.

MR. WATSON, who is represented by the figure on the right, was a person little known beyond the sphere of his calling. He continued a bachelor, but is said to have had a particular affection for children. He formerly resided in the Covenant Close, but latterly removed to the Anchor Close, where he died not many years ago, leaving his property, which was considerable, to a nephew.

No. LXXXVI.

MR. WILLIAM SMELLIE, PRINTER, F.R.S. & F.A.S.,

AND

MR. ANDREW BELL, ENGRAVER.

THE figure on the right represents the late MR. WILLIAM SMELLIE, printer, the author of the *Philosophy of Natural History*, and translator of the works of Buffon. It is by no means one of Kay's happiest efforts, as, instead of the vacant expression here delineated, the prevailing cast of Mr. Smellie's features was grave and thoughtful ; but this defect may have arisen in consequence of the figure being originally that of a Mr. Gavin, and afterwards changed to Mr. Smellie. He was born in the Pleasance of Edinburgh in 1740. Both his father and grandfather were architects, and were possessed of considerable property at St. Leonards, in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh. He married, in March 1763, Miss Jane Robertson, daughter of an eminent army-agent in London. This lady was full cousin to Mrs. Oswald of Dunnikier, their mothers having been sisters. Mr. Smellie's only brother, named John, married Miss Agnes Ferrier, sister of the late James Ferrier, Esq., Principal Clerk of Session.

Independently of his professional eminence—being the most learned printer of his day—Mr. Smellie's talents procured him the constant society and friendship of nearly all the eminent literary characters who flourished towards the latter end of the last century. For his great convivial qualities and brilliant wit we have the testimony of many kindred spirits ; among whom may be mentioned the poet Burns, who thus describes him, in a letter to a venerable old gentleman, Mr. Peter Hill, late bookseller in Edinburgh :—"There in my eye is our friend Smellie, a man positively of the first abilities and greatest



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strength of mind, as well as one of the best hearts and keenest wits that I have ever met with," etc.—*Burns' Works*, Letter 56.

Mr. Smellie was one of the principal writers in the *Edinburgh Magazine and Review*—a work which commenced in 1773, and was conducted for some years with great spirit and much display of talent. It would assuredly have succeeded, had its management been committed entirely to the calm, judicious, and conciliatory control of Mr. Smellie. But owing to the harsh irritability of temper, and the severe and almost indiscriminate satire, in which Dr. Gilbert Stuart, the principal editor, indulged, several of the reviews which appeared in that periodical gave great offence to many leading characters of the day; the consequence of which was such a diminution in the sale of the work as to render it necessary to discontinue it altogether. This took place in August 1776, after the publication of forty-seven numbers, forming five octavo volumes. Had the work been only conducted upon the principles developed in the prospectus, it would have had few rivals and fewer superiors.

Mr. Smellie was likewise editor of the first edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, three volumes, quarto, 1771. The whole plan was arranged, and all the principal articles were written or compiled by him. He also wrote a great number of pamphlets on various subjects, among which may be particularised his *Address on the Nature, Powers, and Privileges of Juries*, published in 1784. It is an admirable treatise, and ought to be carefully studied by every true friend to the Constitution, especially by such as have occasion to act as jurymen. It may be remarked that this pamphlet inculcated those doctrines which have been since recognised as English law in Mr. Fox's celebrated Bill on the subject of libels. The late Honourable Thomas Erskine (afterwards Lord Chancellor), in his defence of the Dean of St. Asaph for a libel, paid Mr. Smellie a very high compliment for this defence of the rights of juries.

Such was the high character of Mr. Smellie as an author, that when the first volume of his *Philosophy of Natural History* was announced as preparing for the press, the late Mr. C. Elliot made him an offer of one thousand guineas for the copyright, and fifty guineas for every subsequent edition, besides the employment of printing it. This was the largest sum ever previously given, at least in Edinburgh, for the literary property of a single quarto volume of similar extent, and evinced both the liberality of the bookseller and the high estimation in which the fame and talents of the author were held. It was, besides, an odd volume, being the first of the work. It is remarkable that this bargain was finally concluded before a *single page* of the book was written.

In his translation of Buffon (9 volumes 8vo), Mr. Smellie introduced many original notes, observations, and illustrations of great importance, pointing out particular passages and opinions in which he differed from his author, and furnishing many new facts and reasonings. The Count de Buffon, as appears from his own letters to Mr. Smellie on the occasion, was highly pleased with this translation, of which a considerable number of editions were published.

In these nine volumes he comprehended all that was contained in the original, which consisted of sixteen large quarto volumes. The method he pursued of rendering it into the English language was somewhat unusual. Instead of translating literally, paragraph by paragraph, and sentence by sentence, he deliberately read over six or eight pages at a time, making himself perfectly master of their substance, and then wrote down the whole in English, in his own words and arrangement. The greater part of this task he performed in a small correcting-room connected with his printing-office, amidst the continual interruption arising from the introduction of proof-sheets of other works for his professional revisal, and the almost perpetual calls of customers, authors, and idle acquaintances. Yet such was his self-possession, that, as usual with almost everything he wrote, he gave it out to his compositors page by page, as fast as it was written, and hardly ever found it necessary to alter a single word after the types were set up from his first uncorrected manuscript.

In August 1781, Mr. Smellie drew up the first regular plan for procuring a statistical account of the parishes of Scotland. This plan was printed and distributed by order of the Society of Antiquaries ; and although no other result followed at the time than a statistical report, by the Earl of Buchan, of the parish of Uphall, in which his lordship then resided, along with three or four others, which were printed in the Society's Transactions, yet it is proper to mention the circumstance, as it was the precursor of the scheme which the late Sir John Sinclair afterwards brought to maturity.

On the death of Dr. Ramsay in 1775, Mr. Smellie became a candidate for the Chair of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh. The patronage being in the gift of the Crown, his friends made strong and ardent applications in his favour to Lord Suffolk ; but from the superior political influence of his opponent, Dr. Walker, these exertions were unsuccessful.

Mr. Smellie was one of the original founders of the Society of Antiquaries. In 1781 he was appointed Superintendent of its Museum of Natural History ; and in 1793 he was elected Secretary. It is not intended here to give a history of that Society ; yet, as a considerable portion of the strange and inexplicable opposition which that Association encountered, in their application for a royal charter, from two highly respectable public bodies, originated out of circumstances intimately connected with Mr. Smellie's history, a short account of these transactions may be given. Mr. Smellie having announced his intention of giving a course of lectures, at the request of the Society, on the Philosophy of Natural History, to be delivered in their hall, this proposal gave great dissatisfaction to Dr. Walker, the recently elected Professor of Natural History, already mentioned ; although every attempt was made by the Earl of Buchan to satisfy him that Mr. Smellie's lectures would not interfere with those of the University, and although Dr. Walker had not given even a single lecture for nearly seven years after his appointment. Nothing, however, would satisfy him ; and his answer to the Earl's pacific endeavours was—"In the professorship I am soon to undertake I have foreseen many difficulties, which I yet hope to surmount ;

but the lectures of Mr. Smellie, under the auspices of the Antiquarian Society, is a new discouragement which I did not expect." This discontent was communicated to the Senatus Academicus, and, through that respectable body, an unexpected opposition arose when the Society of Antiquaries transmitted a petition to the King praying for a charter. The Curators of the Advocates' Library likewise objected to the grant, under the idea that the institution of the Society might prove injurious to their magnificent Library, by intercepting ancient manuscripts and monuments illustrative of Scottish history and antiquities, which would be more useful if collected into one repository. All this opposition, however, proved of no avail. Much to the honour of the late Lord Melville—who was at that time Lord Advocate for Scotland—his lordship signified, by a note to the Secretary of the Society, that he saw no reason for refusing the prayer of the petition, and at the same time transmitted the draft of such a charter as he considered was proper to be granted. In consequence, therefore, of his lordship's favourable interposition, the royal warrant, in which his Majesty was pleased voluntarily to declare himself patron of the Society, passed the Privy Seal next day. As soon as it was received in Edinburgh, a charter was extended under the Great Seal. The gentlemen of this public office, sensible of the many advantages likely to accrue from the establishment of the Society, generously refused to accept their accustomed fees; and the royal charter, which is dated the 29th March, was finally ratified, by passing through all the customary forms, on the 5th and 6th of May 1783.

During the time Mr. Smellie attended the class of Botany in the University, the Professor, Dr. Hope, having met with an accident which confined him to the house for a long time, requested Mr. Smellie, of whose knowledge and abilities he was highly sensible, to carry on his lectures during his necessary absence. This was done by Mr. Smellie for a considerable time—(his widow has stated during six weeks)—to the entire satisfaction of his fellow-students.

Mr. Smellie was about the middle size, and had been in his youth well-proportioned and active; but, when rather past the middle of life, he acquired a sort of lounging gait, and had become careless and somewhat slovenly in his dress and appearance. These peculiarities are well described in the following lines, produced by Burns at the meeting of the *Crochallan* club alluded to in our notice of Lord Newton :—

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"To Crochallan came,  
The old cocked hat, the brown surtout the same :  
His bristling beard just rising in its might,  
('Twas four long nights and days to shaving-night) ;  
His uncombed grisly locks, wild-staring, thatched  
A head for thought profound and clear unmatched :  
And, though his caustic wit was biting rude,  
His heart was warm, benevolent, and good."

In grave and philosophical discourse Mr. Smellie was clear, candid, and communicative, as well as thoroughly informed. He never withheld his judg-

ments and opinions from a narrow-minded feeling, nor obtruded them unnecessarily, or at unseasonable times, from vanity or affectation. His manners were uncommonly mild, gentle, and inoffensive, insomuch that none, even of his own family, ever remember to have seen him out of temper. In his last and long illness he was never in the smallest degree peevish, fretful, or melancholy. He died on the 24th June 1795.

MR. ANDREW BELL, engraver, the other figure in the Print (of whom we have already given some particulars), was an intimate acquaintance of Mr. Smellie, and was frequently engaged, jointly with him, in various literary speculations. He engraved all the plates to illustrate the translation of Buffon.

Mr. Bell was the principal proprietor of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. The second edition of this work began to be published in 1776. At the death of Mr. M'Farquhar, the other proprietor, in 1793, the whole became the property of Mr. Bell. It is well known that he left a handsome fortune, mostly derived from the profits of this book. By the sale of the third edition, consisting of 10,000 copies, the sum of £42,000 was realised. To this may be added Mr. Bell's professional profits for executing the engravings, etc. Even the warehouseman, James Hunter, and the corrector of the press, John Brown, are reported to have made large sums of money by the sales of the copies for which they had procured subscriptions. After Mr. Bell's death, the entire property of the work was purchased from his executors by one of his sons-in-law, Mr. Thomson Bonar, who carried on the printing of it at the Grove, Fountainbridge. In 1812 the copyright was bought by Messrs. Constable and Co., who published the fourth, fifth, and sixth editions, with the Supplement by Professor Napier. The work still continues to maintain so high a reputation in British literature, that the sixth edition has been followed up by a new (seventh) and stereotype edition, with modern improvements, and additions to its previously accumulated stores.

Mr. Bell was in the habit of taking exercise on horseback. The animal he rode was remarkably tall; and Andrew, being of very diminutive stature, had to use a small ladder to climb up in mounting it. The contrast between the size of the horse and his own little person, together with his peculiarly odd appearance, rendered this exhibition the most grotesque that can well be conceived; but such was his magnanimity of mind, that no one enjoyed more, or made greater jest of the absurdity than himself.

Mr. Bell left two daughters. One of them was married to Mr. Mabon, ropemaker, Leith; and the other to Mr. Thomson Bonar, merchant in Edinburgh.





87

## No. LXXXVII.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE DAVID EARL OF LEVEN  
AND MELVILLE.

DAVID, sixth EARL of LEVEN and fifth of MELVILLE, was the only son of Alexander, fifth Earl of Leven, by Mary, daughter of Colonel Erskine of Carnock, and was born in 1722. His lordship entered the army in 1744, and held a company in the 16th Regiment of Foot; but he left the military service on succeeding to the family titles and estates, by the demise of his father, in 1751. For a series of years his lordship seems to have interfered little in public matters. In 1773 he was appointed one of the Lords of Police—an office which he held till the abolition of that Board in 1782. In the following year he became Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly.

In those days the "pomp and circumstance" of the Commissioner's office were matters of much greater moment than they are at present. The levees<sup>1</sup> were then numerously attended by the nobility; and the opening procession to the Assembly, in particular, created feelings of great excitement: the streets were thronged with people, and the windows crowded with all the beauty and fashion of the town, while the retinue of the Commissioner was generally numerous and imposing. The Sunday processions to church were also very attractive. In addition to the usual attendance of the military on such occasions, bands of music were in requisition, which, to the great annoyance of many a sturdy Presbyterian, struck up the moment the procession issued from the place where his Grace held his levee, and while it proceeded towards the High Church. The Commissioner was always preceded by the heralds, and followed by a long train of noblemen and gentlemen, both lay and clerical, besides ladies in full court dress.<sup>2</sup>

The Earl continued to act as Commissioner for nearly twenty years, and took much pleasure in the annual display of official greatness. The leader of the Assembly, during the greater part of that time, was the celebrated Principal Robertson, on the *moderate* side; his opponent being his own colleague in the Old Greyfriars' Church, Dr. John Erskine of Carnock (cousin to the Earl), who led what was then called the *wild* party.

In 1801, the Earl (then in his 80th year) was succeeded in the Commissionership by Lord Napier; and it may be mentioned, as an instance of the enthusiasm

<sup>1</sup> They were held in Fortune's Tavern, Old Stamp-Office Close; and when Fortune removed to Princes Street, the levees took place in the King's Arms Tavern, New Assembly Close, where the public dancing assemblies were held—afterwards the site of the Commercial Bank.

<sup>2</sup> The old Town Guard, who were always furnished with new uniforms for the occasion, were allowed the honour of precedence, by taking the right-hand side of the procession, in preference to the military.

siastic spirit of the ex-representative of Majesty, that he came to Edinburgh in May 1802, to attend the levee of the new Commissioner. On the 4th of June following, being the King's birth-day, he also attended the "grand collation" given on the occasion by the Magistrates in the Parliament House. This was the last public appearance of his lordship. He died at his house, in Edinburgh, five days afterwards, aged 81.

Lord Leven married, in 1747, Wilhelmina, posthumous daughter, and nineteenth child, of William Nisbet of Dirleton. The great degree of domestic felicity with which this union was crowned, is, perhaps, the best proof of the Earl's rectitude of private conduct. Lady Leven was not less distinguished for her amiable qualities of mind than she was for comeliness of person. Her wit was lively and pleasant—her heart affectionate and liberal. She had a habitual and fervent piety, and a regular and constant regard to divine institutions and the offices of devotion. Uninterrupted conjugal affection and felicity, sweetened and heightened by the exercise of parental duties, marked the union of the Earl and Countess. The fiftieth anniversary of their marriage was celebrated at Melville House, 29th January 1797; and she died there, 10th May 1798, aged 74. Her ladyship had a family of five sons and three daughters.

The town residence of the Earls of Leven, during the early part of last century, was at the head of Skinner's Close. The subject of this sketch resided many years in a house at the north-west corner of Nicolson Square, and latterly occupied No. 2 St. Andrew Square.

#### No. LXXXVIII.

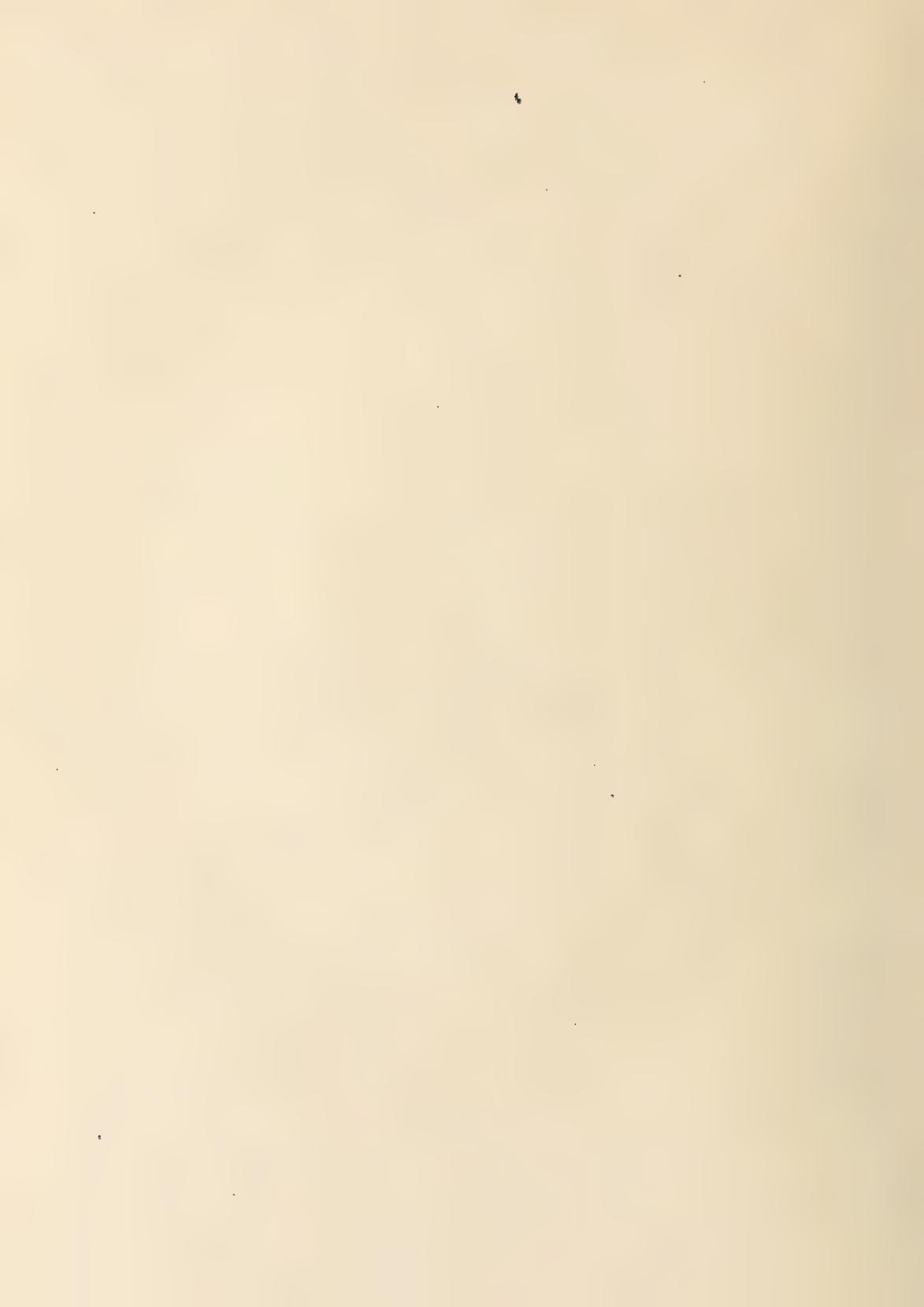
### THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD ADAM GORDON.<sup>1</sup>

LORD ADAM GORDON, fourth son of Alexander, second Duke of Gordon, and grand-uncle to the late Duke, entered the 18th Regiment of Foot in 1746—from whence he was transferred to the 3d Regiment of Foot Guards in 1755. He accompanied this regiment in the expedition to the coast of France, under General Bligh, in 1758; undertaken, in conjunction with the fleet under Lord Howe, for the purpose of creating a diversion in favour of the allies. The General succeeded in effecting a landing at St. Lunaire, on the 4th September, and in destroying a few vessels at St. Briac; but his courage soon began to "ooze out at his finger-ends" on learning that the French camp was only a few miles distant, and that some fresh reinforcements had lately been received. On the 10th of the same month he summoned a council of war, when, with only one dissentient voice (Lieutenant-colonel Clerk) a re-embarkation was resolved upon. Lord Howe was immediately made acquainted with this determination; but, for the safety of the fleet, the Admiral found it necessary to go to St. Cas Bay. The troops were thus under the disagreeable necessity of

<sup>1</sup> A gentleman, who was intimately acquainted with the subject of this sketch, describes the Print of Lord Adam Gordon on horseback as peculiarly striking.



1756



marching a short distance along the coast. This they accomplished in double-quick time, without having almost ever seen the face of an enemy. At St. Cas Howe had every thing in readiness, so that not a moment was lost, the troops entering the boats just as they arrived on the beach. Lord Adam Gordon greatly distinguished himself by bringing up the rear of the troops, and resolutely retarding the advance of the enemy. The embarkation took place on the 11th September, thus finishing, almost without bloodshed, the long campaign of seven days!

Lord Adam Gordon next became Colonel of the 66th Regiment of Foot, and served for several years in America. He returned in 1765, having been entrusted by the heads of the Colonies with a statement of their grievances. Lord Adam had a long conference with the Secretaries of State; but his mission was not productive of any favourable result. In 1775, he was appointed Colonel of the 26th, or Cameronian Regiment; and, in 1782, was made Governor of Tynemouth Castle.

Lord Adam sat in Parliament for many years, having been first returned for the county of Aberdeen in 1754. He afterwards represented the county of Kincardine from 1774 till 1788, when he vacated his seat, and was next year appointed to the command of the Forces in Scotland. Lord Adam thereupon took up his residence in Holyrood Palace, which he caused to be materially repaired; but displayed very questionable taste in having all the oak carvings painted white!

While Commander-in-Chief, Lord Adam frequently amused himself by reviewing those domestic warriors, the Edinburgh Volunteers, and the other defensive bands which the emergencies of the country had called into existence. He also had the honour of presenting a set of colours to a battalion of the Scots Brigade. The ceremony took place in George Square, on the 19th of June 1795. Lord Adam, who was then a very old man, addressed the corps in the following terms:—"General Dundas, and officers of the Scots Brigade, —I have the honour to present these colours to you; and I am very happy in having this opportunity of expressing my wishes that the Brigade may continue, by their good conduct, to merit the approbation of our gracious Sovereign, and to maintain that reputation which all Europe knows that old and respectable corps have most deservedly enjoyed." This oration was received with great applause, and the veterans were visibly affected.

Lord Adam resigned the command, in 1798, in favour of Sir Ralph Abercromby, and retired to his seat of "The Burn," in the county of Kincardine, where he died suddenly on the 13th August 1801, in consequence of inflammation produced by drinking lemonade while over-heated.

His lordship married in London, in 1776, Jane, daughter of John Drummond, Esq. of Megginch, in the county of Perth, the widow of James, second Duke of Atholl, but had no issue.<sup>1</sup> Her Grace died at Holyrood House, on the 22d February 1795.

<sup>1</sup> It was on the Duchess that the song—beginning, "For lack of gold"—was composed.

No. LXXXIX.

RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD ADAM GORDON  
AND  
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE COUNT D'ARTOIS,  
AFTERWARDS CHARLES X.

THE most memorable occurrence during LORD ADAM's command in Scotland was the arrival of his Royal Highness the Count d'Artois, in 1796.

*“June 6.—This afternoon, about two o'clock, his Royal Highness Monsieur Compte d'Artois, etc., landed at Leith from on board his Majesty's frigate Jason, Captain C. Stirling. On the frigate's coming to anchor in the Roads, his Royal Highness was saluted with twenty-one guns from Leith Fort, and with the like number on his landing at Leith, where he was received from the boat by Lord Adam Gordon and a part of his suite, and conducted in his lordship's carriage to an apartment in the Palace of Holyrood, fitted up in haste for his reception; and, as he entered the Palace, his Royal Highness was saluted with twenty-one guns from the Castle. The Windsor Foresters and Hopetoun Fencibles were in readiness to line his approach to the Palace; but his Royal Highness choosing to land in a private manner, and with as little ceremony as possible, that was dispensed with. The noblemen in his Royal Highness's suite followed in carriages provided for the purpose, and were conducted from the outer gate of the Palace by the Commander-in-Chief to their apartments.”*

“Next day his Royal Highness Le Compte d'Artois held a levee at his apartments in Holyrood House, at which his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, Lord Dalkeith, Lord Adam Gordon, and all the officers of the Hopetoun Fencibles, and of the Staff in North Britain, attended, and were presented; as also the Sheriff Depute of Mid-Lothian and several other gentlemen. His Royal Highness, it is understood, means to see company every Monday and Thursday.”<sup>1</sup>

The royal suite remained for several years at Holyrood House, during which

<sup>1</sup> On this occasion, the following verses appeared in the “Scots Chronicle” of the 2d March 1796:—

“O Scotia ! take me to thy arms—  
Thy friendly arms O stretch to me !  
My native land has lost her charms—  
From Gallia's shore I come to thee :  
From Gallia's once dear sprightly shore  
I fly to thee, her ancient friend ;  
Oh ! ope the hospitable door—  
Wilt thou a royal head defend ?

The purple stream and deluged plains,  
So late the terror of mine eyes,  
My wounded breast the shock retains,  
And every throb of pleasure dies.



I KAY. 1796



period the Count frequently visited London, from whence, it is said, he directed the operations of the Chouans in Bretagne. He also visited Sweden in 1804, and again returned to Britain in 1806.

CHARLES PHILIP COUNT D'ARTOIS, brother of Louis XVI., was born in 1757.<sup>1</sup> "At the beginning of the Revolution he declared against its principles, and was one of the most zealous defenders of the royal prerogatives." At length a price having been set on his head by the Convention, he was under the necessity of withdrawing himself from France; and, from 1789 till 1794, continued a wanderer among various continental courts. Towards the end of the last-mentioned year the British Government granted him an allowance, when he embarked for Britain. Previous to the Revolution, which proved so destructive to his family, the Count is described to have been "the most gay, gaudy, fluttering, accomplished, luxurious, and expensive Prince in Europe." He married Maria Theresa, daughter of the King of Sardinia, in 1773, by whom he had two sons,—the eldest of whom, the Duc d'Angouleme, accompanied him in his exile, and arrived at Holyrood House a few days after his father. The life of the Count d'Artois has been very much chequered. On the restoration of the Bourbon dynasty in 1815, his elder brother, the Count de Provence, ascended the throne of France as Louis XVIII., and on his death the Count succeeded to the crown under the title of Charles X.; but the well-known recent events of the "Glorious Three Days" again drove him and his family into exile. In 1830 he once more took up his residence at Holyrood, where he resided with the Duc and Duchess d'Angouleme, and his grandson the Duc de Bourdeaux, till 1833, when he retired to Gratz, a town of Illyria in the Austrian dominions. There he died of inflammation in the bowels, November 6, 1836, in the seventy-fifth year of his age.

Can Scotia hear my mournful tale,  
And Scotia not afford relief?  
Oh! let the voice of woe prevail—  
Thy tenderness will soothe my grief."

When the Count revisited Holyrood as Charles X., the author of these lines then presented him with a few lines of condolence and congratulation by the hand of a confidential friend.

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<sup>1</sup> In December 1763 the subject of this notice acted a part in a little drama of compliment with which David Hume was treated at the French Court, in consideration of his literary merits. We make the following extract from a letter of Hume to Dr. Robertson:—"What happened last week, when I had the honour of being presented to the Dauphin's children at Versailles, is one of the most curious scenes I have yet passed through. The Duc de B. (Bourdeaux, afterwards Louis XVI.), the eldest, a boy ten years old, stepped forth, and told me how many friends and admirers I had in this country, and that he reckoned himself in the number, from the pleasure he had received from reading many passages of my works. When he had finished, the Count de P. (Provence, afterwards Louis XVIII.), who is two years younger, began his discourse, and informed me that I had been long and impatiently expected in France; and that he himself expected soon to have great satisfaction from the reading of my fine history. But, what is more curious, when I was carried thence to the Count d'A. (Artois), who is but four (six) years of age, I heard him murmur something, which, though he had forgot it in the way, I conjectured, from some scattered words, to have been also a panegyric dictated to him. Nothing could more surprise my friends, the Parisian philosophers, than this incident."—RITCHIE'S Life of Hume, 155.

## No. XC.

## JOHN DHU.

THIS is another likeness of the renowned civic guardsman, of whom a short notice has been given in No. II. The warlike career of the well-known *Shon*, however, had not always been confined to the quelling of mobs and drunken squabbles : he was

“A soldier in his youth, and fought in famous battles,”

having originally belonged to the 42d Regiment, in which he was right-hand man of the grenadiers. He was in every respect a capital specimen of one of those doughty heroes to whom Burns alludes in his “Earnest Cry and Prayer,”

“But bring a Scotsman frae his hill—  
Clap in his cheek a Highland gill—  
Say such is Royal George’s will,  
An’ there’s the foe—  
He has nae thocht but how to kill  
Twa at a blow.”

John nobly supported the character of his countrymen at the attack on Ticonderago, in North America, where the “Royal Highlanders” were distinguished by most unexampled gallantry — although they at the same time suffered severely for their temerity.

After sharing in the manifold fatigues of the Canadian war, John was discharged ; and, as stated in the former notice, became one of the Edinburgh Town Guard. While in this situation he was met one very warm day, whilst going down to Leith Races, by Captain Charles Menzies, who had been a cadet in the Royal Highlanders in 1758. Not having seen his old comrade for a long time, the Captain accosted him in a very friendly manner—a condescension highly gratifying to John—and, after a short congratulation, observed, as they were about to part, “that it was a very hot day.” “Och, och, Captain,” replied *Shon*—“no half siccān a warm day as we had at Ticonderago !”

Although he had been an undaunted soldier, and was a terror to the mobocracy of Edinburgh, he was altogether a man of kind feelings, and by no means overstepped the limits of his duty, unless very much provoked. Many yet remember his conduct towards those young delinquents, whose petty depredations brought them under his surveillance. After detaining them in the guard-house for a short time, and having administered a little wholesome terror by way of caution, should they “ever do the like again,” *Shon* would open the half-door of the guard-room, and push them out with a gentle slap on the breech, saying—“There noo, pe off ; an’ I’ll say you’ll didna rin awa,”—meaning that he would make an excuse for them.

John was the intimate friend of Stewart, the *original* Serjeant-major of the 42d Regiment, who died about fifty years ago at Danderhaugh.









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No. XCI.

SIR WILLIAM NAIRNE, BARONET,  
LORD DUNSINNAN.

THIS gentleman was the son of Sir William Nairne, the second baronet of Dunsinnan. Not being the oldest son, and having only a distant prospect of succeeding to the estate, he was educated for the profession of the law, and admitted an advocate in 1755. He was in 1758 appointed Commissary-Clerk of Edinburgh, conjunctly with Alexander Nairne, a relative of his own. Sir William (then Mr. Nairne), continued to practise at the bar upwards of thirty years ; and, if he did not acquire the fame of a great orator or a profound lawyer, he was at least respectable in both capacities, and his virtues gained him what was perhaps better—the esteem of all who knew him.

On the death of Lord Kennet, in 1786, Sir William was promoted to the bench, and took his seat as Lord Dunsinnan—a circumstance which called forth the following complimentary *pun* from the late Duchess of Gordon. A short time after his elevation, her grace, happening to meet the newly appointed judge, inquired what title he had assumed—*Dunsinnan* was of course the reply. “ I am astonished at that, my lord,” said the Duchess, “ for I never knew that you had *begun sinning*.”

In 1790 Sir William succeeded to the baronetcy, on the death of his nephew, and thus became the fifth in succession who bore the title. He at the same time bought the estate of Dunsinnan from another nephew, for the sum of £16,000 ; and having almost no funds remaining, he was under the necessity of adopting the utmost economy in order to clear off the purchase money. With this view he continued to live a bachelor, keeping almost no company ; and so strictly did he abide by the rules he had laid down in this respect, that he was accused by many of being actuated by very narrow and parsimonious feelings. It is told of him, as illustrative of his peculiar economy, that he had only *one bed* at Dunsinnan, besides those occupied by his servants, thus to preclude the possibility of being put to the expense of entertaining visitors. It so occurred that the late George Dempster of Dunnichen, one of the most intimate of the very few friends with whom his lordship associated, paid him a visit at Dunsinnan on one occasion ; and having tarried a little later than usual, a violent storm arose, which induced Mr. Dempster to think of remaining all night. Dunsinnan, unwilling to declare the inhospitable arrangement of his mansion, evaded the proposition by every means possible, in hopes that the storm might abate. At last, finding no likelihood of this, he sallied forth to the stable to order his

friend's coach to the door, as the only effectual *hint* to his guest ; but Dempster's coachman was not to be so caught : he positively refused to harness the horses in such a night, especially as the roads were so bad and dangerous, preferring rather to lie in the stable, if he could get no other accommodation, till daylight. Lord Dunsinnan, thus driven to extremities, returned to his guest, and made known the dilemma in which they were placed. "George," said he, "if you stay, you will go to bed at ten and rise at three ; and then I shall get the bed after you."

The property of Dunsinnan, which included nearly the entire parish of Collace, was far from being in a state of improvement when it came into his hands ; a great part of the lands consisted of what is termed "outfield," and the farms were made up of detached portions, many of these at considerable distances. No sooner had Sir William obtained possession of the estate than he set about dividing the lands into compact and regular farms, which he enclosed, and gave to each a certain portion of outfield ; at the same time he built comfortable dwellings for many of his tenants, and, by proper encouragement, induced others to do so for themselves. He thus, with no niggardly hand, promoted alike the prosperity of the tenant, and ensured the rapid improvement of the soil.

Sir William was appointed a Lord of Justiciary, in 1792, on the death of Lord Stonefield ; and continued to attend the duties of the circuit until 1808, when he resigned, and the following year retired from the Court of Session altogether. He died at a very advanced age at Dunsinnan House on the 25th March 1811. The title became extinct in his person, and a nephew (his sister's son) succeeded to the estate and assumed the name of Nairne.

His lordship's residence in Edinburgh was Minto House, Argyle Square. Previous to his removal thither, he occupied a tenement at the head of the Parliament Stairs, lately a printing-office ; but now removed to make way for the new Justiciary Court-Room.

Before concluding this sketch, it may be noticed that Lord Dunsinnan was uncle to the famous Catherine Nairne or Ogilvie, whose trial in 1765 for the crimes of murder and incest, excited such general interest. She married in that year Thomas Ogilvie, Esq. of Eastmiln, Forfarshire,—a gentleman, as was stated at the trial, forty years of age and of a sickly constitution—the lady's own age being only nineteen. Shortly before the marriage, a younger brother of this gentleman, named Patrick, and a lieutenant in the 89th Foot, had returned on account of bad health from India, and had taken up his residence as a visitor at his brother's house. The marriage took place three or four days after Patrick's return ; and in less than a week the intercourse betwixt him and his brother's wife, which led to such tragical consequences, was stated to have commenced. Four months afterwards, in pursuance of a diabolical plot betwixt Mrs. Ogilvie and her seducer, the former effected the death of her husband by means of arsenic. She and her accomplice were accordingly brought to trial, when both were found guilty, and condemned to be hanged. Sentence

was executed upon Patrick Ogilvie,<sup>1</sup> in the Grassmarket of Edinburgh; but Catherine Nairne, whose sentence had been delayed in consequence of pregnancy, made her escape from the tolbooth soon after her accouchement. She effected this by assuming the garb and demeanour of the midwife, Mrs. Shiells, who had for several days previously attended on her patient with her head muffled up, under pretence of a violent attack of toothache.

There is every reason to believe that the stratagem was matured under the connivance of her uncle Sir William, then Mr. Nairne; and at least some of the prison guards were not ignorant of what was to take place. There have been various conjectures as to the precise time Catherine Nairne quitted the city—some asserting that she remained concealed in Edinburgh for some days prior to her flight to the Continent. It appears almost certain, however, that she left the city the same night (Saturday the 15th March 1766) on which she escaped from the jail;—a carriage was in waiting at the foot of the Horse Wynd,<sup>2</sup> in which was Mr. Nairne's clerk—the late Mr. James Bremner, afterwards Solicitor of Stamps—who accompanied Mrs. Ogilvie as far as Dover, on her way to France.

Notwithstanding her very critical situation, Mr. Bremner was in momentary dread all the way of a discovery, in consequence of her extreme frivolity of behaviour, as she was continually putting her head out of the window and laughing immoderately. She was, as previously noticed, very young, and had only been married in January 1765; and the crime for which she was tried was completed, by the death of her husband, in the month of June following. She was described, in the proclamation issued for her apprehension by the magistrates of Edinburgh, as attired in “an officer's habit, with a hat slouched in the cocks, and a cockade in it;” and “about twenty-two years of age, middle-sized and strong made; has a high nose, black eyebrows, and a pale complexion.” Two rewards were offered for her apprehension,—one by Government, and another by the city of Edinburgh, of one hundred pounds each. It is said she was afterwards very fortunate, having been married to a Dutch gentleman, by whom she had a numerous family. Rumour also represents her as having ultimately retired to a convent and taken the veil; and adds, that she survived the French Revolution, and died in England in the present century.

<sup>1</sup> He was a great player on the violin; and the interval between his condemnation and execution was almost exclusively devoted to his performance on that instrument. Great influence was used to save him; but the feeling was so strong against him, that the efforts of his friends were wholly ineffectual.

<sup>2</sup> The principal entrance, at that period, to Minto House, was from the Horse Wynd. It is now enclosed, and used as a furniture wareroom.

## No. XCII.

## MR. RALPH RYLANCE.

MR. RYLANCE was by profession a literary man—a veritable “scribbler of all work,” in prose or in verse—

“From grave to gay, from lively to severe.”

Whether in the penny-a-line department of a newspaper—the compilation of a preface or index—the getting up of a pamphlet for the nonce—a review—or the redaction of goodly quarto volumes of voyages and travels originally written by others<sup>1</sup>—the licking into harmony and grace the confusion of language and ideas in manuscripts on any given subject—Ralph was a ready and “universal penman.” And perhaps no man of this age has written so much and so well, with so slender a memorial for posthumous fame; for his rich fund of intellect may be said to have been expended in sixpenny-worths, upon the temporalities of the passing hour, while others wore the laurels which he planted and nourished.

Mr. Rylance owes his chance for immortality in this collection to the following circumstances:—Under the auspices of one of his patrons and employers, (Mr., afterwards Lord Brougham), he engaged in the compilation of the general index to the first twenty volumes of the *Edinburgh Review*. This led to his first and only visit to Scotland, during the summer of 1813. Under the charge of his publishers, Messrs. Constable and Co., he remained some months in Edinburgh, superintending the progress of that index through the press. The varied extent of his literary acquirements—the modest, good-natured simplicity of his character, mixed with a deal of eccentricity—his unaffected and gentle demeanour—his convivial powers, and his love of fun, were qualities certain of attracting the attention and securing the hospitality of Mr. Constable, whose keen appreciation of literary merit always kept pace with his well-known character of a humorist; and hence Mr. Rylance became a frequent guest at the table of that eminent publisher.

Mr. Constable was occasionally in the habit of getting a sketch taken of the persons of such characters as afforded him amusement, from any peculiar gait or trait of humour; and, in the indulgence of this whim, he, as in the case of others to follow in this collection, employed Mr. Kay to watch the person of Rylance, and steal a few side glances of his form and features; and thus was produced the portraiture annexed, which we can vouch for as a very correct likeness of honest Ralph.

<sup>1</sup> e.g. “Mawe’s Travels in Brazil,” 4to.—Lond. 1812. Written by Mr. Rylance.



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During the brief period of Mr. Rylance's sojourn in Edinburgh, Mr. Constable found employment for his pen in various minor literary matters,—among others in the compilation of an analytical catalogue of all the works previously published in his then extensive establishment, and of which a large impression was thrown off and circulated.

The following newspaper sarcasm, which first appeared in the *Morning Chronicle* after the publication, in 1815, of Sir Walter (then Mr.) Scott's poem, *The Field of Waterloo*, is from Rylance's pen :—

“ The corps of many a hero slain  
Graced Waterloo's ensanguined plain ;  
But none, by sabre or by shot,  
Fell half so flat as Walter Scott ! ”

To which, after remonstrance, and in a better mood, he added—

“ Yet none, by magic sword and shield,  
More nobly fought on Flodden Field.”

Mr. Rylance died at London in 1834. The following tribute to his memory is, we believe, from the pen of his friend Mr. Jerdan :—

“ Died, on the 6th of June, aged 52, Mr. Ralph Rylance, a gentleman of great talents and varied acquirements. By Messrs. Longman and Co. his abilities, information, and industry were well known and justly appreciated. His pen had been employed by them for many years ; and he was the author or translator of a multitude of publications, although to no one of them, we believe, is his name attached. He was not so distinguished in the literary world as he ought to have been.

“ Mr. Rylance was a native of Bolton in Lancashire. His early boyhood was passed in Liverpool, where he was honoured by the special notice of the late Mr. Roscoe ; of whose kindness he always spoke with the warmest gratitude, and who put him to school under the celebrated Mr. Lempriere. Here he acquired the classical languages with extraordinary facility ; and afterwards became so accomplished a linguist, that he could read, write, and speak with fluency no fewer than eighteen languages ; and, not long before his death, was closely studying the Welsh and Celtic, for the purpose of composing an ethnic essay on the affinities of all languages. With ancient history and literature he was profoundly acquainted ; and his racy English style was evidently formed on that of the age of Elizabeth. In politics he was a liberal Whig ; and in religion, although differing from some of his nearest and dearest connections, he was steadily and faithfully attached to the Church of England. Two of his most recent productions were, ‘An Explanation of the Doctrines of Christianity,’ and ‘An Exposition of the Lord’s Prayer,’—both of which have been mentioned in the *Literary Gazette* with the commendations which the rational piety of their author, and the simplicity and clearness of his statements, arguments, and illustrations deserved. Of the excellent qualities of his heart, the filial tenderness

with which he watched over and soothed the decline of a venerable mother (who died not above four years ago) afforded a convincing proof. The variety of his knowledge, the cheerfulness of his disposition, the unaffectedness of his character, and even the occasional touch of eccentricity in his manners—all contributed to make him as amusing and agreeable an associate as we ever encountered at the convivial board.”—*Literary Gazette*, 12th July 1834.

In Dr. Watt's *Bibliotheca Britannica*, the record of Mr. Rylance's avowed works, previous to 1824, is limited to—“A tribute to the Memory of William Pitt,” 8vo, 1806; “Sketches of the Causes and Consequences of the late Emigration to the Brazils,” 8vo, 1808; and “A Vocabulary of English Words, chiefly derived from the Saxon, with their Signification in Spanish,”—to which is added, “A short English Grammar for Spaniards,” 8vo, 1813.

#### No. XCIII.

### LEVELLING OF THE HIGH STREET OF EDINBURGH.

THE idea of levelling the High Street was entertained so far back as 1785 ; and the “contest” which ensued is a matter of some notoriety in the civic history of the Scottish capital. The projected improvement was one of considerable importance, as it contemplated the reduction of a very inconvenient and somewhat dangerous rise in the centre of the street, which greatly incommoded the communication by the north and south approaches. Under the patronage of Sir James Hunter Blair, then Lord Provost, the undertaking was acceded to by a majority of the Town Council, and an advertisement issued in consequence, stating that a contractor was wanted “to level the High Street, and to dig and carry away from it about 6000 cubic yards of earth.” This advertisement was generally understood to mean simply the reduction of the “crown o' the causey” to a level with the sides ; but, when the operation commenced, it was discovered that the plan was much more extensive, and that, in following it out, some parts of the street would require to be lowered more than five feet. The proprietors of houses and shops became alarmed. Meetings were called, and a serious and formidable opposition to the measure was organised. A bill of suspension and interdict (somewhat analogous to an injunction in England) was presented ; and subsequently, on the 8th October, an interlocutor was pronounced, appointing a condescendence (or specification of facts) to be given in, showing in what manner the adjacent houses, vaults, etc., would be affected by the proposed alterations. Reports were then lodged by Messrs. Brown and Kay on the part of the Town Council ; and by Messrs. Young and Salisbury, on that of the proprietors. The bill of suspension was passed.





This municipal squabble was of course too good a subject for the genius of Kay to overlook ; accordingly we are presented, in the foregoing print, with a group of the persons most zealous and interested in this bone of contention.

The figure on the left represents MR. ORLANDO HART, who carried on business as a shoemaker in the High Street, opposite the Old City Guard-House, and was considered one of the most fortunate of the city politicians. For a series of twenty or twenty-five years he was almost constantly a member of the Town Council, or a Deacon, or a Trades Councillor,—having been first elected Deacon of the Cordwainers in 1766, and thereafter Convener of the Trades in 1771. He possessed a happy knack of suiting himself to circumstances, and was peculiarly sagacious in keeping steady by the leading men in the magistracy ; the consequence of which was, in addition to extensive patronage in the way of his calling, the enjoyment of the pretty lucrative situation of Keeper of the Town's Water Works, etc. He was of course favourable to the Lord Provost's plan of levelling the street.

The popularity of Mr. Hart among the jolly sons of St. Crispin appears to have been of very early growth. In 1757 he was the victorious candidate for the honour of *monarchy*, in the spectacle of King Crispin, in opposition to Deacon Malcolm, whose party, determining not to be thrown into the shade, crowned him king also ; so that, what was perhaps unprecedented<sup>1</sup> in the annals of Christendom, two rival kings and their subjects actually walked in the same procession, without producing a single “broken bane or bluidy head.”

Mr. Hart, though never famed among his friends for the depth of his understanding, appears, nevertheless, to have had a pretty good opinion of himself. On one occasion Mr. (afterwards Provost) Creech happened to put the question to Daft Davie Erskine—“Who is the wisest man in the city ?” He received for reply, “Mr. Hart.” The next time Mr. Creech met the Deacon, he told him the story ; upon which the latter modestly replied, “Davie is no sic a fool as ye tak' him for.”

The Deacon and Provost Dalrymple resembled each other extremely in personal appearance ; so much so, that a gentleman meeting the Provost one day challenged him for not sending home his boots. The Provost, comprehending the mistake, which doubtless had occurred on other occasions, good-humouredly replied, “I will attend to it to-morrow.”

Mr. Hart built the front, or centre house, on the north side of Charlotte Square, which we have been informed, cost £10,000. He died on the 9th September 1791 ; and was followed to the grave, in seven days afterwards, by his widow. His son, Macduff Hart, whom he had assumed as a partner, under the firm of Orlando Hart and Son, continued to carry on the business, and was elected Deacon of the craft in 1782. He was particularly celebrated for his vocal powers.

<sup>1</sup> No parallel can be found, excepting in the instance of the two kings of Brentford, whose exploits are recorded in “The Rehearsal.”

The next figure, in the centre, represents MR. WILLIAM JAMIESON, mason and architect, whose father, Mr. Patrick Jamieson, built the Royal Exchange,<sup>1</sup> which was begun in 1753. He was elected one of the Deacons of Mary's Chapel in 1767 ; and, like his friend Mr. Orlando Hart, was very successful in avoiding those political quicksands which, in the good old days of corporate omnipotence, were so dangerous to individual prosperity. As a reward for his steadily having “shoulder kept to shoulder,” he possessed for many years the sinecure office of Engraver to the Mint in Scotland, with a salary of £50 a year,—in which appointment he succeeded Convener Simpson. This sinecure is now abolished ; and no wonder, when the duties of the office could be sufficiently performed by a stone-mason.

The most memorable public performance of Mr. Jamieson was the renovation of the Tron Kirk, which he accomplished much to the satisfaction of the public. The steeple was built principally of wood, and existed until the great fire in November 1824, when some of the embers from the burning houses having lodged in it, and the wind blowing hard, the steeple was set on fire and destroyed, along with the bell, which had been hung in 1673, and cost 1490 merks. The steeple was rebuilt in 1828, and the bell recast and placed in its old situation, where it now again performs its usual functions.

Mr. Jamieson was also contractor for making the public drains of the city, at an estimate of no less than £100,000,—the rubbish from the excavations of which was to be carted to Portobello, without being subject to the dues leivable at the toll of Jock's Lodge, the bar being partly under the management of the Town Council. The toll-keeper, however, having taken it into his head that he ought to be paid the regular dues, on one occasion closed the gate against the carts of the contractor. The circumstance being made known to Mr. Jamieson, “Weel, weel,” said he to the carters, “just coup the carts at the toll-bar ;” which was accordingly done, to the grievous annoyance of the toll-keeper, who never afterwards refused the right of egress and ingress.

The greater part of Portobello was the Deacon's property at one period, and feued out by him. He himself latterly resided there, although, when this print was done, his house was in Turk's Close.

Mr. Jamieson married, about the year 1759, Miss Christian Nicholson, sister of the late Sir William Nicholson of Jarvieswood, by whom he had six sons and six daughters. The eldest daughter married James Cargyll, Esq., W.S.;

<sup>1</sup> The parties in the agreement for erecting this building were—the Right Honourable William Alexander, Lord Provost ; David Inglis, John Carmichael, Andrew Simpson, and John Walker, Bailies ; David Inglis, Dean of Guild ; Adam Fairholm, Treasurer, etc., on the part of the City,—and Patrick Jamieson, mason ; Alexander Peter, George Stevenson, and John Moubray, wrights ; John Fergus, architect—all burgesses, freemen, members of Mary's Chapel of Edinburgh—undertakers. In the contract, the sum to be laid out in purchasing houses and grounds whereon to erect the Exchange is stated at £11,749 : 6 : 8, and the cost of erection at £19,707 : 16 : 4,—amounting, in all, to £31,457 : 3s. sterling. The first stone was laid in 1753, by George Drummond, Esq., at that time Grand Master of the Freemasons. A triumphal arch, and theatres for the Magistrates, and galleries for the spectators, were erected on the occasion. The work, however, was not fully entered upon till the year following, and was finished in 1761.

the next was married to a Mr. Stoddart, who had realised a fortune abroad ; the third to James Marshall, Esq., Secretary to the Provincial Bank of Ireland in London ; and the youngest to the late Reverend Dr. Robertson of South Leith. The rest mostly died when young. The only son who reached manhood was the late William Jamieson, W.S., who died in 1826. This gentleman attained a temporary celebrity by his attacks on the Judges of the Court of Session ; for which, however, he smarted pretty severely—perhaps more so than the case required.

The third figure is MR. ARCHIBALD M'DOWALL, clothier, North Bridge, for many years a leading member of the Town Council. He is represented as holding in his hand a plan of the improvement proposed by the Magistrates.

Mr. M'Dowall was a cadet of the ancient family of M'Dowall of Logan. His father, James M'Dowall of Canonmills, was nearly related to the late Andrew M'Dowall, Lord Bankton. In the entail of the estate of Bankton, in East Lothian, and certain other property, executed in 1756, he is a *nominatim* substitute, and is therein stated to be his lordship's cousin.<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Gilmour of Craigmillar, the great-grandchild of this James M'Dowall, was consequently grand-niece of Mr. Archibald M'Dowall. Being the descendant of his eldest brother, she succeeded to the property of Canonmills, on the death of her father, while in minority. It may not be out of place to mention that Mr. Patrick M'Dowall, the father of James M'Dowall of Canonmills, was the first private banker who discounted bills in Edinburgh. He carried on business before the erection of the Bank of Scotland, under the Act of Parliament in 1695, and for a considerable time afterwards.

Mr. M'Dowall was born in 1743, and married in early life a near relation of the late Dr. John Macfarlan, minister of the Canongate Church (who married his sister), and father of John Macfarlan of Kirkton, Esq., advocate, and also of the present Dr. Patrick Macfarlan of Greenock. He commenced the first cloth manufactory in Scotland,<sup>2</sup> similar to those carried on so extensively at Leeds, and brought a number of workmen from England for that purpose. This establishment was at Paul's Work, at the south back of Canongate, now called M'Dowall Street, from which he afterwards removed to Brunstane Mill,

<sup>1</sup> The Countess of Dalhousie, who happened to be the nearest heir of entail to the Logan and Bankton estates, was long engaged in a lawsuit with the possessor, so that, failing his brother, she might be enabled to enter into possession.

<sup>2</sup> In order to encourage Mr. M'Dowall's manufactory, the Earl of Buchan proposed that such gentlemen of the Antiquarian Society as intended to be present at the first anniversary meeting of the Society on the 30th November 1781, should be dressed entirely in "home-made" articles. Accordingly, they all appeared with clothes of M'Dowall's manufacture, worsted hose, etc. Lord Buchan, being the last to make his appearance, on looking round, immediately exclaimed, "Gentlemen, there is not one of you dressed according to agreement, myself excepted ; your buckles and buttons are entirely English, whereas mine are made from jasper taken from Arthur's Seat." And very beautiful they were. The bed of jasper is now exhausted.

near Portobello. Being, however, unable to compete with the English manufacturers, the speculation proved unsuccessful.

Mr. M'Dowall entered the Town Council in 1775, and in politics took the same side as his friend Sir James Hunter Blair. He was several times in the magistracy ; and, before his retirement, was offered the Provost's chair, which he prudently declined, in consequence of the depressed state of his manufactory. He was a very public-spirited man, and devoted much of his time to the improvement of the city.

Mr. M'Dowall died December 1816, leaving six sons. The eldest, after being unsuccessful as a merchant, settled in Van Diemen's Land, where he obtained a grant of land, which he has denominated, after that of his ancestor, the estate of Logan. For two of his sons Mr. M'Dowall obtained appointments in the East India Company's Service. One of them (Colonel Robert) was nearly thirty years in India, during which time he distinguished himself at the siege of Seringapatam, and on various other occasions—particularly in the surprise and complete dispersion of above 3000 Pindaries—for which he received the thanks of the Governor-General in Council, and of the Court of Directors. He afterwards was at the capture of Tavoy and Mergui, of which he was appointed Governor ; but was unfortunately killed, in command of two brigades of native infantry, at the conclusion of the Burmese war. The other son who went to India (Mr. William), after being about twenty years in the Madras Medical Establishment, returned to Edinburgh, taking up his residence at Bellevue Crescent. Two other sons of Mr. M'Dowall entered the mercantile, and his youngest son (Charles) the legal profession as a Writer to the Signet.

In the back-ground the Lord Provost (Sir James Hunter Blair) is represented as busily employed in digging and shovelling out the earth ; while Mr. Hay, Deacon of the Surgeons, and a most violent anti-leveller, is as eagerly engaged in shovelling it back again. Mr. Hay was a leader of the opposition in the Council.

This civic squabble gave birth to various local effusions ; and, among others, to a satirical poem in Latin doggerel, entitled "*Streetum Edinense, carmen Macaronicum*,"<sup>1</sup>—in which Mr. Hay is made to sustain a prominent part. After alluding to the zeal displayed in the matter by Sir James Hunter Blair, and just at the moment that assent has been given to the measure by the Councillors present, the Deacon is represented as bursting into the Council Chamber, backed by a posse of anti-levellers, and in a harangue of most uncouth hexameters, declaims against the project, and dares his brethren to carry it into effect.

<sup>1</sup> This mock-heroic poem was the joint production of the late Mr. Smellie, printer, and of Mr. Little of Liberton. It will be found in "Kerr's Memoirs of Smellie."



M<sup>R</sup>. MOSS in the Character of CALEB



Kyn 1787

In the DANDY O' HE WOULD BE A SOLDIER

The words & Music by

R.T. Crosfeld

Tho' late as a waiter I run up & down with bottles glasses  
Claret Rum & Brandy Onow an Officer I'm made I'll have fervants of my own & be among the Ladies quite the dandy O

My Cravat sticks out like a Pigeon's breast  
My Hat so smart my Sword so long so Handy O  
I like a sheep's tail at each ear my Hair's completely drest  
And my Military Cue you see's the Dandy O.  
My Patent Blue rib'd stockings I wear with a Grace  
And my watch chains on each side hang down so Grandy O  
With my Spy glas in my hand patch & paint upon my face  
From my scuffer to my Buckle I'm the Dandy O.

At Concerts and Dances the Ladies I will Court  
With words and looks as sweet as Sugar Candy O  
And then for fighting Duels O I shall have charming Sport  
Then Dam'n who but I shall be the Dandy O.  
And when a Great Warrior I come home I design  
With Jacon here to take a nip of Brandy O  
For who knows but in time he'll hangue up for his Sign  
Then CALEB boy I think you'l be the Dandy O.

No. XCIV.

MR. MOSS,

IN THE CHARACTER OF "CALEB."<sup>1</sup>

THE first notice of this comedian which we have been able to discover occurs in the year 1773, when he is announced as performing at the Theatre-Royal, Edinburgh. Gibbet, the first grave-digger in *Hamlet*—Alonzo, in *The Tempest*—and Justice Shallow, are the principal characters we find noted, as personated by him, in the newspapers of that time.

After a lapse of nine years, during which period history or tradition say not how or where he was employed, he returned to the Edinburgh boards; and, immediately after his benefit, the following advertisement occupied a conspicuous place in the columns of the *Evening Courant*:

"Mr. Moss takes the earliest opportunity of returning his sincere thanks, and expressing his warmest gratitude to the public, for the uncommon favour shown to him at his benefit on Monday night last [April 7]. The great overflow from every part of the theatre is a new proof that the liberal and generous spirit of the inhabitants of this city never overlooks the smallest endeavours to please them; and their kindness, shown to a stranger, evinces that that hospitality for which Scotland was ever renowned still flourishes in its pristine vigour. He begs leave to add, that such a distinguished mark of approbation will constantly stimulate him to increase his endeavours to contribute all in his power to the entertainment of the public.—CANONGATE, 12th April 1783."

The play appears to have been a "comedy, never performed here, called *The School for Mirth*; or, *Woman's a Riddle*,"—in which he acted Aspen, with the additional attraction of Miss Farren being cast for the part of Miranda. The afterpiece was *The Agreeable Surprise*,—in which Moss played Lingo.

The next season was also passed in Edinburgh; and, on the night of his benefit (19th April 1784), Moss acted the part of Croaker, in Goldsmith's very excellent, and, in our opinion, best comedy, *The Good-natured Man*, which, in the advertisement, is stated never to have been before acted in Edinburgh. Not content with the title conferred on it by the author—and perhaps, with the view of rendering it still more attractive—it was styled, "or, *The Whimsical Alarm*."

Between the play and farce was produced a new comic interlude, called *The Good Woman without a Head*; or, *Diarmugh M'Finnan's Voyage to America*—the Good Woman without a Head, Mr. Moss. To which was added, for that night only, a new musical farce, called *Lingo's Wedding*; being a sequel to

<sup>1</sup> The song of "I'm the Dandy, O," was written, as stated on the engraving, by R. T. Crosfield, then a student of physic at the University, and first sung by Mr. Moss on the Edinburgh stage.

*The Agreeable Surprise*—Lingo, the Latin Schoolmaster and Parish Clerk, by Mr. Moss,—who recommended the piece to notice by the following amusing puff:—

“Mr. Moss, willing to testify his gratitude for his very kind reception by the public in the character of Lingo, has procured a farce to be written, in which the subject is to be continued, and he flatters himself, much heightened, by showing Lingo in the new light of teaching the scholars—at the club as preses—with his courtship, serenade, and his duel. He has also been at considerable expense in getting the license of the Lord Chamberlain, and in having music adapted properly for the representation of the piece; on which have been bestowed suitable decorations.

“The farce has been read to several gentlemen of the first taste and condition in this city, and has been honoured by their entire approbation; this, with an unexceptionable play, and the humorous interlude, furnish the bill of fare; and Mr. Moss respectfully hopes his assiduity to please will be taken as a proof of his grateful sense of the public favour.”<sup>1</sup>

Another hiatus occurs in our notes for Mr. Moss's biography. We however learn that he was acting again in Edinburgh during the season 1788-89.

He was for many years manager of several of the provincial theatres in the south of Scotland. His favourite character during this period, and one in which he excelled, was that of Lovegold, in *The Miser*.

The next account of him we find is contained in the following advertisement, published in 1815:—

#### THEATRE ROYAL.

*Last Night of Performing until the Summer Season.*

FOR THE BENEFIT OF MR. MOSS.

Mr. Moss, who had the honour of being a performer in this city thirty years ago, and being then distinguished by a most flattering degree of public patronage, respectfully begs leave to inform the ladies and gentlemen of Edinburgh that severe and lengthened disease has wholly disabled him from his professional exertions, and now confines him a patient to one of the wards of the Royal Infirmary. In these circumstances of deep distress, Mr. Moss begs leave to address himself to the liberality of a public to whom calamity never appeals in vain, and respectfully informs them that, on Saturday the 20th May, will be performed a favourite three act comedy, called

#### HE WOULD BE A SOLDIER.

“Four and Twenty Puppet-Shows,” by Mr. Russell.<sup>2</sup>  
End of the play, the dramatic pastoral, in one act, of

#### DAPHNE AND AMINTOR.

A comic song, by Mr. Russell, called “The Humours of a Playhouse.”  
To which will be added, the new melo-drama of

#### JEAN DE PARIS.

In act 2d, a scene representing a Fête Champêtre, with a dance and Banquet.

The receipts of the house exceeded £130.

<sup>1</sup> The following were the characters:—Lingo (the Schoolmaster and Parish Clerk), Mr. Moss; Sir Eugene Friendly, Mr. Tanner; Compton, Mr. Davies; and Captain Crosstrees, Mr. Hallion; Lady Friendly, Miss Morris; Tabby, Mrs. Tanner; and Mrs. Tickleteat, Mrs. Mills.

<sup>2</sup> The “Stranded Actor,” as he afterwards called himself, from the circumstance of his having, for a short season in 1834, treated the town to Monologues in the New Strand Theatre.





GRAND CLERK 95

The “severe and lengthened disease” under which Mr. Moss had been labouring, terminated in his death on the 11th of January 1817. The following notice of this event occurs in the newspapers of the period:—

“Died, at Edinburgh, Mr. Moss, after a lingering disease of nearly three years’ duration, the pains of which he bore with exemplary fortitude. Mr. Moss was long the great dramatic favourite of the Edinburgh public; and many still recollect the excellence with which he portrayed Lingo, and many characters of the same stamp.”

No. XCV.

MR. ROBERT MEIKLE.

THIS gentleman maintained a very respectable professional character in Edinburgh as a writer, and was Assistant-Clerk in the Court of Session. He is said to have been extremely attentive to business, and was much esteemed by his friends for the possession of many of those “social qualities” which, in the Bacchanalian spirit of last century, were as much a passport to good society as temperance and decorum are in the present. We need scarcely add that he was a most zealous member of the honourable fraternity of free-masons, and seldom failed to join his brethren on the annual festival of the good Saint Andrew.

A ridiculous incident, arising out of his “social qualities,” is preserved of the “Grand Clerk,” and a bottle friend, the “Grand Secretary.” They had been enjoying themselves in Douglas’s tavern, Anchor Close—a favourite resort at that period—over a goodly dose of “nut brown ale,” with a due proportion of Glenlivet, by way of stimulant; when, staggering forth about ten o’clock at night, both perfectly “glorious,” the one carelessly remarked to the other,—“Robbie, ye’re *fou*.” Robbie, misunderstanding his friend, replied, “Confound you, sir! wha’s a *sow*? ”—at the same time aiming a terrible blow at his unconscious companion; but the blow falling short, the “Grand Clerk” tumbled into the gutter, and was ultimately carried home in a state much more easily conceived than described.

Such scenes were by no means of rare occurrence in those “golden days;” and what would now destroy the respectability of any professional gentleman, did not then at all affect his reputation. MR. MEIKLE filled the situation of Clerk to the Grand Lodge for fifteen years, with great credit to himself and benefit to the society; and was afterwards chosen Secretary in 1796. This latter office he held only fifteen months, in consequence of his death, which happened on the 18th of February 1797.

Mr. Meikle was married, and had a family. He was succeeded in the clerkship by Mr. Thomas Sommers, glazier; and, on this gentleman’s death, in 1799, the office was devolved upon Mr. James Bartram, brewer, who took his place in the grand centenary procession on St. Andrew’s day, 1836.

## No. XCVI.

MR. THOMAS NEIL, WRIGHT AND PRECENTOR,  
IN THE CHARACTER OF "THE OLD WIFE."

IT is now thirty-six years since this "son of song" departed to the "world of spirits;" yet he is well remembered by many of the old inhabitants of Edinburgh. He was forty years a precentor in the Old Church; and, it is believed, the last time he officiated was at the re-opening of that place of worship, at the close of last century, after it had undergone some extensive repairs.

Perhaps no man in Edinburgh of his time possessed greater local notoriety than "TAM NEIL." He was a universal favourite, and seemed formed for the very purpose of "smoothing the wrinkled brow of care;" and although his wit may not have been of the most brilliant description, yet there was in the manner of the humourist an inimitable archness, which irresistibly compelled even the most serious of his auditors to "hold their sides" for a time.

As we have already said, Tam was a precentor. The clear, strong, musical voice with which he was endowed peculiarly adapted him for the desk, and no derogatory tongue has yet dared to say that he did not perform his duties regularly and with propriety; but there was a solemnity in the walls, and a dulness in the long faces of a church, which by no means comported with his own mirth-creating features. It was in the tavern that Tam was glorious! There, in giving due effect to some humorous Scottish ditty, his whole powers of music and mimicry found ample scope. He could also sing, with great pathos, many of our most pathetic national melodies: but Tam had not a heart for sadness.

"He possesses the knack of setting off his songs with so much drollery," is the remark of Kay in his notes, "and such a singular peculiarity of manner, that in all probability he will never have an equal or successor. He has the art of adapting not only his voice, but his very features, so much to the subject of the song—especially where it will admit of mimicry—that a stranger, who may have seen him in the *Old Man's Wish* in one company, would not know him half an hour after as the *Old Wife* in another,—so very different a turn does he give to his voice, features, and action."

The latter of these songs, in the character of which he is represented in the Print, was one of his particular favourites. With a handkerchief wrapped over his head, his lips compressed, and his long chin set prominently forward, his imitations of the querulous voice of age were quite inimitable.

There was another production (a catch), familiar to the vocalists of the present day, called "The Merry Christ's Church Bells," in which Neil displayed, with wonderful effect, the compass and harmony of his voice; and so peculiar



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was the volubility of his tongue, that his audience would almost fancy they heard the very chiming of the merry bells. “In short,” observes his limner, “he may justly be considered the Momus of modern times, and the catch clubs of Edinburgh will only have to regret that he is not immortal.”

Upon the late James Livingstone of Glasgow, who died there in 1836, may be said to have descended the inspiring mantle of Thomas Neil; and our readers of the west, from their recollections of the one, will be the better able to form a proper estimate of the other. There was a *difference*, however, in the characters of the two. Perhaps Livingstone surpassed his predecessor, not in a more genuine, but in a more varied version of the national comic song; while the other possessed, in a higher degree, the power and harmony of voice necessary to constitute a superior glee and catch singer.<sup>1</sup> Livingstone, in private company, was the most simple unaffected creature imaginable—temperate and recluse. Not so with his witty Bacchanalian precursor, who, in the words of the song, was

———“a canty chiel,  
And dearly lo’ed the whisky.”

Tam’s facetious talents furnished him with a ready passport to all classes of society. He was frequently a solicited guest at the table of the great, and always a welcome visitor to many a well-known “howff” in the city. With the Magistracy he sat cheek-for-jowl at all civic feasts; and occasionally enlivened the club meetings of the Caledonian Hunt with his presence, his wit, and his songs. In company, a very frequent salutation was—“Come now, Tam, gie’s your *thrifty sang*”—a request with which he immediately complied, by chanting, in his own inimitable manner, the following stanzas, well known to our “auld forbears,” but now almost obsolete :—

“ Sweet sir, for your courtesie, when ye come by the Bass, then,  
For the love ye bear to me, buy me a keeking-glass, then.”

“ Keek into the draw-well, Janet, Janet;  
And there ye’ll see your bonnie sel’, my jo, Janet.”

“ Keeking in the draw-well clear, what, if I should fa’ in, then,  
Syne a’ my kin will say and swear I drowned mysel’ for sin, then.”

“ Haud the better by the brae, Janet, Janet;  
Haud the better by the brae, my jo, Janet.”

“ Good sir, for your courtesie, coming through Aberdeen, then,  
For the love you bear to me, buy me a pair of shoon, then.”

“ Clout the auld, the new are dear, Janet, Janet;  
A’e pair may sair ye half a year, my jo, Janet.”

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Thomson, lately precentor in Lady Yester’s Church, when a youth, has frequently sung at concerts with Thomas Neil. These musical meetings were then generally held in the Masonic Hall, Niddry Street. He was intimate with Neil, and recollects that at that time he possessed a very superior bass voice.

“ But what, if dancing on the green, and skipping like a mankin,  
If they should see my clouted shoon, of me they will be taukin’.”

“ Dance aye laigh, and late at e’en, Janet, Janet ;  
Syne a’ your faults will no be seen, my jo, Janet.”

“ Kind sir, for your courtesie, when ye gae to the cross, then,  
For the love ye bear to me, buy me a pacing horse, then.”

“ Pace upon your spinnin’ wheel, Janet, Janet ;  
Pace upon your spinnin’ wheel, my jo, Janet.”

Unlike modern professional gentlemen, it was no part of Tam’s economy to charm his friends out of their money ; it will not, therefore, be surprising that his talents proved, in some measure, destructive of his industry. He frequently felt the “pinging” gnawings of an empty pocket ; yet “poor but hearty” continued to be his motto—and

“ A cog o’ gude swats an’ an auld Scottish sang,”

together with the approbation of his friends, were sufficient to set poverty and care at defiance. Tam worked for many a day as a journeyman wright, even after he became precentor. He at length set up in a small way for himself, and might have succeeded well ; but his customers were neglected, and his trade gradually dwindled down by a species of consumption not uncommon in such cases. Coffins were a staple commodity of Tam’s manufacture, although he could not properly be considered an undertaker ; and, in this line, notwithstanding his tippling propensities, and when almost every other species of employment had left him, he continued to receive a degree of patronage. Even on this grave subject the precentor’s drollery could not be restrained. When any of his cronies (and many a one of them he screwed down in their last narrow house) were complaining, he used to rally them with a very professional observation—“Hech, man, but ye smell sair o’ fir.”

Tam was employed on one occasion to make a coffin for a youth who had died at Easter Duddingston, and in the evening he and his apprentice went to take the article home. The coffin was inclosed in a bag, that it might be the more easily carried. On arriving at the village of Duddingston, it being a cold moonlight night in November, Tam felt an irresistible desire to fortify himself with a glass. He and his apprentice accordingly entered the first public-house, and having drunk a “gill of the best,” the landlady was called in, and Tam began to explore his unfathomable pockets for the odd sixpence upon which he had speculated, but not a bodle was there. Tam looked astonished, apologised for the awkward circumstance, and promised to “look in” as he came past. But “Na !”—the prudent hostess “didna get her drink for naething, and couldna let it gang that gait.” Tam promised, flattered, and threatened ; but all would not do. “Weel, weel,” said he, “since ye’re sae doubtfu’ o’ my honesty, as I’m gaun to play at a bit dance out by at Easter Duddingston the nicht, I’ll e’en leave the case o’ my bass fiddle till I come back.” This seemed to satisfy the landlady ; and Tam, with the aid of his apprentice, soon unbagged

the coffin! Inspired with that feeling of awe, if not of terror, which that emblem of mortality, under such circumstances, was calculated to produce, the landlady exclaimed, with unfeigned perturbation, "Awa', ye gallows-looking blackguard; gin that be the case o' yir bass fiddle, neither you nor it shall stay in my house." Her request, as may be well imagined, was very readily complied with.

Tam was questioned one day by a lady, at whose house he was employed in making some repairs, as to the reason why people of his profession were so extravagant in their charges for coffins. Tam looked very mysterious, and agreed to inform her of the *secret* for the matter of a good glass of "Athol brose"; which moderate stipulation being immediately implemented, he told her, "It's juist because they are ne'er brought back to be mended." As we have already hinted, the precentor's wit consisted more in the *method* than the matter; and hence the reason, although he never failed to "set the table in a roar," that there are few of his sayings which do not lose materially by being written down. There are still one or two anecdotes not altogether unworthy of notice. Tam was one night engaged in a tavern with a party of select friends, among whom was the late Mr. Home Drummond, a gentleman then young, and who, it is said, could relish a night's diversion well, provided he did not "buy his joys o'er dear." During the evening Tam delighted the company with his very best songs, and, in return, was plied at every interval with an excess of liquor. Mr. Drummond, in particular, perhaps with the view of making him tipsy, pressed the songster without mercy, frequently adding, that if he did not drink off his glass he should have *Keltie's mends*—(*i.e.*, fill the glass and make him drink it over again). When the debauch was finished, and the parties came to the street, one of those present, who was by no means sober, feeling an increase of thirst from the excess of his libations, put his head to the mouth of the well in the High Street, and commenced drinking most vigorously. "Out wi't," cried the songster, chuckling over his imagined victory,—"out wi't; or, by my sang, ye shall hae *Keltie's mends*."

Tam and a drouthy crony accidentally met in the Potterrow (*Scottice*, Patterraw) one forenoon, after a night of heavy drinking. They both stood much in need of a drop to brace their nerves, but not a stiver was betwixt them. In vain they looked round for some kindly invitation—in vain some dernier howff was suggested. The precentor's *licht* was now on the wane; yet he "couldna think of parting dry-mouth'd." "Come," said Tam, a fancy having struck him; "let's see what chance will provide." They accordingly dived into the house of an old acquaintance whom they had not seen for some time. A gill was called, and the landlady desired to sit down and "tak' the poison aff the glass;" which she readily did, to oblige "sae auld a friend as the precentor." The whisky went round, and a conversation ensued upon the common topics of the day,—the American war, the dearth of provisions, etc.; and Tam took care not to overlook the modern alterations going on in the city. "What wi' levelling streets, and bigging brigs, they'll no leave ae stane o' the auld toon aboon anither," said the landlady.—"It's a confounded shame," rejoined Tam,—"and

sic an *auncient* city, too! I'm tauld the Apostle Paul ance visited this very district we're sitting in the noo." "Nonsense!" exclaimed his crony—"Ye're gyte, now," said the landlady; "I'm sure I've read the Testament mony a time, an' I ne'er saw sic a thing in't."—"What'll ye bet, then?" quoth the wily precentor. "It's no for the like o' me to be betting," said she; "but, in a case like this, I'll haud ye the gill on the table there's no a word about the Patterraw." The Testament was produced—Tam turned over the leaves with affected difficulty—till at last he hit upon the passage, Acts xxi. 5. "And we came with a straight course into Coos, and the day following into Rhodes, and from thence into P-a-t-a-r-a." Against such conclusive evidence the simple hostess could urge no appeal; and was so highly pleased with the discovery, that, like Eve, she wished the "gudeman" to be made as wise as herself, even at the expense of another gill. John, who had been engaged in the cellar, very opportunely made his appearance, and, being told of the astonishing fact, was as incredulous as his rib had been. John was better acquainted with the process of reducing bead twenty-two to thirty than he was with the contents of the New Testament; nevertheless, he could with great security "wager ony man half-a-mutchkin that the Patterraw, nor ony ither *raw* in a' Edinburgh, was nae sae muckle as mentioned between the twa buirds o' the Bible." The half-mutchkin stoup, instead of the small tantalising measure which had hitherto occupied the table, was accordingly filled by the gudewife, who was secretly gratified that John's wisdom, so immaculate in his own estimation, was about to be found somewhat faulty. We need scarcely add that the "P-a-t-a-r-a" of the text at once decided who should "pay the piper;" and Tam, thus plentifully supplied, was spared the alternative he had dreaded of parting with a dry mouth.

Like most others whose talents become so much an object of social gratification, Tam, who at first drank for the sake of good company, latterly drank for the sake of good liquor. He knew and felt this, and by no means attempted either to deceive himself or others on the subject. Mr. Nisbet of Dirleton (himself an excellent musician, and contemporary of the musical Earl of Kelly<sup>1</sup>) happened to meet the jovial precentor pretty early one forenoon, in the High Street, rather more than half-seas-over. Dirleton challenged Tam for being "so groggy before meridian." "Why," said he, "don't you let your debauch stand till night?" Tam acknowledged the justice of his censure,—"Vera true, sir—vera true; but as I maun aye be this way ance a day, I maun just tak' it when I can get it."

Tam continued to be *that way* very frequently for a great length of time—his constitution apparently experiencing little or no bad effects from the practice. He lived to a good old age, and died within a few days of the close of last century. His death is thus recorded in the *Edinburgh Magazine* for 1800:— "Died, December 7, Thomas Neil, wright, and precentor in the Old Church

<sup>1</sup> A few copies of his lordship's minuets were published, from the original manuscripts, by C. K. Sharpe, Esq. Small folio—Edinburgh, 1836: Thos. Stevenson. Some of them are particularly good.





KAY. Feat. 1709

of Edinburgh, aged about seventy years. In the profession of a precentor he held the incumbency for full forty years. He excelled in singing old humorous Scots songs, and that certainly was his forte."

## No. XCVII.

## MAJOR CAMPBELL,

OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH REGIMENT.

THE Print of this gallant but eccentric son of Mars was etched by Kay when the 35th Regiment was stationed in Edinburgh Castle in 1789, at which period Colonel Lennox (afterwards Duke of Richmond) joined the corps, having exchanged from the Coldstream Guards.

CAMPBELL was a native of the "East Neuk of Fife," where his father possessed an estate which yielded, some eighty years ago, a comfortable income of nearly £500 per annum; but the wholesale hospitality maintained by the *laird*, and an extravagant indulgence in the luxury of foreign wines,<sup>1</sup> which were then landed without molestation at all the little bays on the east coast of Scotland, at last brought the "mailing" to the hammer.

Mr. Campbell entered the army, and shared in all the harassing campaigns of the first American war, in which he had been frequently and severely wounded. While on service there, it is said he received an injury which totally altered the original form of the most prominent feature in his countenance, having received a blow in the face with a musket from a soldier of his own regiment, whom he had been reprimanding. According to Kay's MS., the man was immediately tried by a court-martial, and condemned to be shot; but the Major staid the execution of the sentence, and subsequently applied for and obtained a free pardon for the offender.

Although this anecdote is by no means inconsistent with the amiable character of Major Campbell, it is rendered somewhat apocryphal by the fact that he was too much beloved by the soldiers of his company, who rejoiced in his eccentricities, to be injured by any of them.

Major Campbell was a gentleman of very peculiar manner. His speech, like the Baron of Bradwardine's, was usually interlarded with scraps of Latin. He had studied at St. Andrews,—a circumstance which he delighted to refer to. A very slight and casual allusion instantly furnished him with an opportunity for introducing his favourite remark—"at the College of St. Andrews, where I was taught languages, sciences, and various *sorts of particulars*, my dear." *My dear* he used indiscriminately in addressing persons of whatever rank—whether General O'Hara, the stern governor, or a drum-boy.

<sup>1</sup> Claret could then be had for £15 a hhd.

At Gibraltar, on one occasion, the General ordered a regiment, which had newly arrived to replace another about to embark on different service, to be inspected by several of the field-officers—each private to step six paces in front of the line for that purpose. The corps thus to be scrutinised was a battalion of the Scots Brigade, which had been raised in Edinburgh in 1794 by the late Lieut.-General Ferrier, and of such a diminutive size were the men, that they were called “the Garvies” by the inhabitants. Major Campbell was one of the inspectors, and he patiently endured the tedious process of overhauling this very indifferent sample of his countrymen, till at length one peculiarly coarse-visaged, short, cross-made, elderly little fellow stepped out his six paces. Unable longer to contain himself, and running up to the soldier, he stooped to the level of the ill-favoured “militaire,” then grinning, or rather *girning* in his face, he bawled out—“Well, doubly d——n me! (his usual exclamation), but you are an ugly b——! my dear.” Then turning to a fellow officer (Lieut.-General Ainslie) who stood by—“He seems conglomerated, my dear; from *con* and *glomeo*, as we used to say at St. Andrews, my dear.”

Major Campbell remained with his regiment until a very old man, and so worn out that he could not poise his sword without the assistance of both his hands.

He married Miss Macalister, sister to Lieut.-Colonel Macalister, 35th Regiment, by whom he had one son, Henry Fletcher.

Our hero died more than forty years since. His son was an officer in the same regiment, and having retired, married a sister of Sir Charles Turner, of Abberley, near Witherley, in Yorkshire, by whom he obtained a handsome fortune.

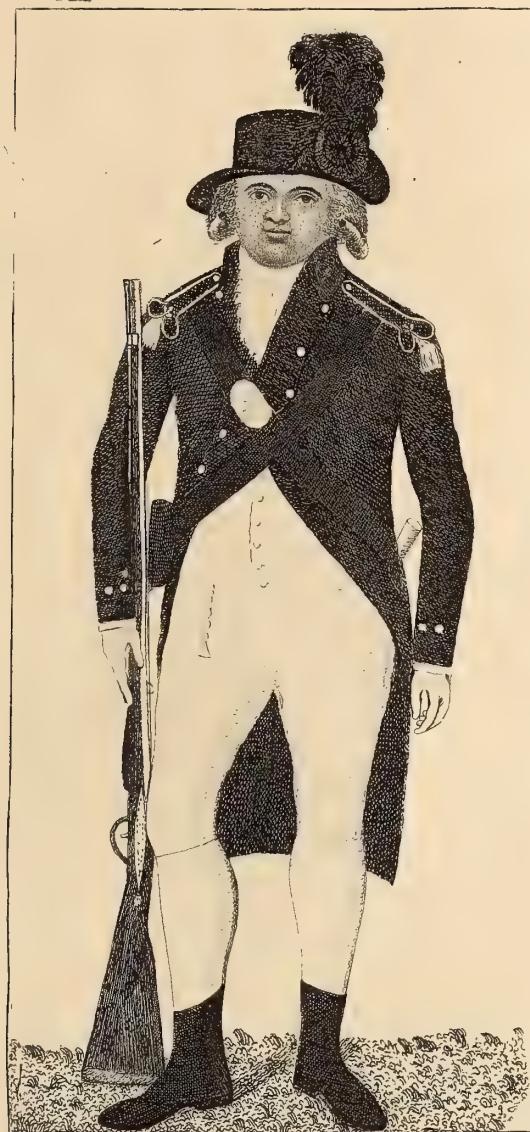
#### No. XCVIII.

### THE ROYAL EDINBURGH VOLUNTEERS.

#### MR. ARCHIBALD GILCHRIST.

THE Edinburgh (or, as they were afterwards called, the Royal) Volunteers, were embodied in 1794. The plan of instituting the corps was first contemplated in the month of June of that year; and, on the 3d of July following, a general meeting of the proposed members were held in the Sheriff Court-Rooms, when certain leading articles of regulation were established, and a committee of management appointed.<sup>1</sup> By one of the articles, the uniform is described to

<sup>1</sup> The Volunteers were to bear all their own expenses of clothing and other necessaries; and half-a-guinea of entry-money was exacted from each member, towards defraying contingencies. Subsequently, however, on application to Government, the usual pay was obtained for an adjutant; pay and clothing for a sergeant-major and twenty sergeants; and also for twelve drummers and twelve fifers. The entire scheme of embodying the citizens as volunteers, it is said, was solely projected by the late James Laing, Depute City-Clerk.



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EDINBURGH VOLUNTEER





consist of a blue coat, with a red cape and cuff, white lining turned up in the skirts, two gold epaulets, and a button bearing the name of the corps and arms of the city; white cassimere vest and breeches, and white cotton stockings; short gaiters of black cloth; a round hat with two black feathers and one white; and black cross-belts.<sup>1</sup> The two grenadier companies had a bear-skin and a grenade on the hat, and grenades at the joining of the skirts of the coat; while the officers of the corps were only distinguished by their swords. The regiment, being assembled in Heriot's Green on the 26th September 1794, was presented with a stand of colours by the Lord Provost (Sir James Stirling), attended by the two senior Magistrates, the Principal of the University, and the whole Members of the Town Conucil, in their robes. The colours were very handsome; the one elegantly embroidered with a crown and the letters G.R.; and the other with the city arms. A vast crowd of spectators attended to witness the presentation.

The original officers of the corps were—

LIEUTENANT-COLONELS.

Thomas Elder, Old Provost.

William Maxwell, Colonel in the Army (now General Sir William Maxwell).

MAJORS.

Roger Aytoun, Leut.-Colonel in the Army. Arch. Erskine, late Major of 22d Foot.

CAPTAINS.

Patrick Crichton, a Captain in the Army.

Robert Hamilton, late Lieutenant 82d Foot.

Charles Kerr, late Captain 43d Foot.

William West, Captain in the Army.

Andrew Houston, late Lieutenant of the Carabiniers.

Robert Arbuthnot, Lieutenant in the Army.

John Anstruther, late Lieutenant 17th Foot.

Thomas Armstrong, late Lieutenant 80th Foot.

Captain-Lieutenant George Abercromby.

LIEUTENANTS.

Baine Whyt, W.S.

Thomas Hewen, late Captain in 4th Dragoons.

William Coulter.<sup>2</sup>

Archibald Campbell, late Lieut. in the Army.

Malcolm Wright.

David Hume, late Lieutenant of Marines.

John Clark.

Henry Jardine (now Sir H. Jardine), W.S.

David Reid.

Robert Dundas (the late Sir Robert Dundas,

John Pringle.

Baronet, of Dunira).

Robert Hodgson Cay, Advocate.

ENSIGNS.

John Dundas.

James Brown.

John Menzies.

James Dickson.

John Wood.

Charles Phin.

Lachlan Maclavish.

Morris West.

CHAPLAIN—Reverend G. Baird.

TREASURER—Hugh Robertson.

ADJUTANT—Patrick Crichton.

SECRETARY—Henry Jardine.

QUARTERMASTER—David Hunter.

SURGEON—Thomas Hay.

ASSISTANT-SURGEONS—John Rae and James Law.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The belts of the Edinburgh Volunteers were afterwards painted white, which soon gave the corps an awkward appearance, on account of the paint scaling off, and leaving portions of white and black alternately. They were accordingly soon laid aside, and the common buff belt substituted. The uniform underwent many other changes.

<sup>2</sup> Afterwards Lord Provost, who, dying while holding that office, received the honour of a public funeral.

<sup>3</sup> In a pamphlet, entitled "View of the Establishment of the Royal Edinburgh Volunteers," published in June 1795, an alphabetical list of all the members is given, amounting to 785; which,

The Lord Provost, by virtue of his office, was Colonel of the regiment ; and all the other commissions were conferred by the King on the recommendation of the Volunteers themselves.<sup>1</sup>

The first review of the Volunteers took place at Bruntsfield Links on the 22d November 1794, when they were inspected by the Duke of Buccleuch, Lord-Lieutenant of the county. On this occasion the spectators were very numerous and highly respectable. Among the nobility and gentry present were —the Duchess of Buccleuch and family, the Earl of Morton, Lord Ancrum, the Lord President, the Lord Advocate, and many of the Lords of Session. On the 6th July 1795, they had another “grand field-day” at the Links, when the Right Honourable Mr. Secretary Dundas was received as a volunteer into the corps. The same day he gave an elegant entertainment, in Fortune’s Tavern, to the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Council, and to several other gentlemen. As a mark of respect, Mr. Dundas was immediately afterwards requested, by the Lord Provost, in name of the corps, to accept the station of Captain-Lieutenant, which he declined, but gratefully acknowledged the honour in a highly complimentary letter.

The patriotic example of arming in defence of their country which had been shown by the gentlemen of Edinburgh, was speedily followed throughout Scotland. Every district had its band of armed citizens—the discontented became silent, and loyalty was the order of the day—

“We’ll give them a welcome, we’ll give them a grave,”

was the prevailing sentiment, should the enemy dare to set a foot on Scottish ground. Burns, in his impassioned song of “The Dumfries Volunteers,” seems to have thoroughly embodied in it the spirit of the times,—

“ Does haughty Gaul invasion threat ?  
 Then let the loons beware, sir :  
 There’s wooden walls upon our seas,  
 And volunteers on shore, sir.  
 The Nith shall rin to Corsincon,  
 And Criffel sink in Solway,  
 Ere we permit a foreign foe  
 On British ground to rally ! ”

\*       \*       \*       \*

“ The kettle o’ the Kirk and State,  
 Perhaps a clout may fail in’t ;  
 But deil a foreign tinkler loon  
 Shall ever ca’ a nail in’t.

but for its extreme length, might have been worth transcribing. At that period no less than fifty-five members of the celebrated “Cape Club” were enrolled in the corps. Five old sovereigns of the Cape were doing duty in one company, and seven knights were officers of the Volunteers.

<sup>1</sup> The privates of each company were permitted to name individuals of their number to be their officers ; and it is related, as a curious fact, that several of these officers owed their elevation solely to their being unfit to march, or keep their places in the ranks properly, having been selected by the privates in order that they might get rid of the annoyance of an awkward comrade.

“ Our fathers’ bluid the kettle bought,  
And wha wad dare to spoil it ?  
By heaven ! the sacrilegious dog  
Shall fuell be to boil it.”

In consequence of the alliance of Spain with France, a meeting of the Lieutenants of the city, and the officers of the Edinburgh Volunteers, was held on the 14th September 1796, when they resolved,—“that as this apparent increase of strength on the part of our enemies must give them additional confidence, it is highly necessary to show them that this country is capable of increasing its exertions in proportion to the force brought against it.” Accordingly, an augmentation of their corps being deemed necessary, another battalion was speedily organised, called the Second Regiment of Edinburgh Volunteers.

In 1797, when the French were every day expected to attempt a landing in Ireland, the First Regiment tendered their services to perform the duty of the Castle, in order to allow the withdrawal of the regular troops; and, in 1801, when the danger seemed more immediately to menace our own shores, the former offer of service was followed up with characteristic spirit.

The Lieutenant-Colonel commanding, the Right Honourable Charles Hope (Lord President and Privy Councillor), in his letter to General Vyse, at this alarming crisis, says—“In the event of an enemy appearing on our coast, we trust that you will be able to provide for the temporary security of Edinburgh Castle by means of its own invalids, and the recruits and convalescents of the numerous corps and detachments in and about Edinburgh; and that, as we have more to lose than the brave fellows of the other volunteer regiments who have extended their services, we trust you will allow us to be the first to share in the danger, as well as in the glory, which we are confident his Majesty’s troops will acquire under your command, if opposed to an invading army.”

On the cessation of hostilities in 1802 the Volunteers were disbanded, after eight years of military parade, during which period “they had many a time and oft” marched to and from the camp at Musselburgh, and, on the sands of Leith, maintained the well-contested bloodless fight. They closed their first period of service on the 6th of May 1802. Early in the forenoon of that day they assembled in Heriot’s Green, where they first obtained their colours; and, having formed a hollow square, the Lieutenant-Colonel read Lord Hobart’s circular letter, conveying his Majesty’s thanks, and also the thanks of the two Houses of Parliament. He likewise read a resolution of the Town Council of Edinburgh, conveying, in the strongest and most handsome terms, the thanks of the Community to the whole Volunteers of the city; and a very flattering letter from his excellency Lieut.-General Vyse. The regiment was afterwards marched to the Parliament Square, where, being formed, the colours were delivered to the Magistrates, who lodged them in the Council Chamber, and the corps was dismissed.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Not the least important practical benefit resulting from the patriotic feeling of the Volunteers, consisted in the frequent collections made among them in aid of the poor of the city. “On the 3d of January 1797 they assembled in their uniforms at St. Andrew’s Church, where an excellent discourse

Such is a sketch of the first era of the Royal Edinburgh Volunteers. They were not, however, allowed to remain long unembodied. The peace which had been proclaimed with great ceremony at the cross of Edinburgh on the 4th of May 1802 lasted something less than a year, when the threatening aspect of affairs again roused the scarcely tranquil feelings of the country. The great preparations made by the Emperor Napoleon to invade this country were met by a corresponding effort on the part of the British Government, which was supported by the united energies of the whole people. In few places was the spirit of the country more signally displayed than in Edinburgh. Upwards of four thousand volunteers were enrolled ; and notwithstanding the great sacrifice of time which the proper training to arms required, all men seemed actuated with one spirit, and cheerfully and without complaint submitted to the tedious process of military instruction, aware of the importance of order and discipline against an enemy whose bravery was unquestioned, and who had given so many proofs of great military skill and enterprise. On the 30th September 1803 the Royal Edinburgh Volunteers resumed their warlike banners. On this occasion the regiment was augmented to a thousand rank and file ; and, in conformity with the general orders previously issued, their dress was changed to scarlet with blue facings.

Notwithstanding the “mighty note of preparation,” the military operations which followed this new enrolment were happily not of a more sanguinary nature than those of the former. With the exception of forming guard occasionally when a fire occurred in the city, the duties of the Volunteers were confined to the usual routine of drills, field-days, and reviews—and these they continued to perform year after year with unabating zeal. In 1806, when new regulations were issued limiting the allowance to volunteer corps, the First Regiment stood unaffected by them. The circumstance seemed rather to stimulate their patriotism. “I wish to remind you,” said their Lieut.-Colonel, addressing them one day while on parade, “that we did not take up arms to please any minister, or set of ministers, but to defend our land from foreign and domestic enemies.”

One of their great field-days occurred on his Majesty’s birth-day, 1807, when the Lieutenant-Colonel, the Right Honourable Charles Hope (then Lord Justice Clerk), was presented with a valuable sabre, of superb and exquisite workmanship, in testimony of their regard for him as an officer and a gentleman. The sword was presented by Thomas Martin, Esq., sergeant of grenadiers, in name of the non-commissioned officers and privates.

In the year 1820, during the disturbances of the west, the Edinburgh Volunteers garrisoned the Castle, to enable the regular troops stationed there to proceed to Glasgow.<sup>1</sup> It was then, as many professional gentlemen were

was preached by the Rev. Principal Baird (their chaplain), from Isaiah ii. 3, 4. The Lord Provost and the Magistrates were present in their robes, and the congregation was very respectable and genteel. A liberal collection, amounting to upwards of £111, was made for the industrious poor and destitute sick.”

<sup>1</sup> The corps volunteered, if necessary, to leave Edinburgh, and co-operate with the regular troops, and one night remained actually under marching orders.

enrolled as privates, no unfrequent occurrence to find barristers pleading in the Parliament House, attired in warlike guise, with their gowns hastily thrown over their red coats. A short time afterwards the corps was somewhat unceremoniously disbanded.

MR. ARCHIBALD GILCHRIST, whose well-proportioned figure has been so aptly selected by the artist as a specimen of the Edinburgh Volunteers, is represented in the old or blue uniform, having been an original member of the corps. His father, who was a native of Lanarkshire, came to Edinburgh about the middle of last century, and commenced business as a haberdasher in a "land" at the back of the Old City Guard. His shop, or warehouse, was one stair up, and on the same flat with that of Mr. John Neil, also a haberdasher. These establishments were at that time the only two of the kind of any extent in the city. Mr. Gilchrist having assumed as partners two of his nephews of the name of Mackinlay, the business was subsequently carried on under the designation of Archibald Gilchrist and Co.<sup>1</sup>

Shortly after the death of his father, the firm being dissolved, Mr. Archibald Gilchrist opened a new establishment on the South Bridge, about 1788, when he became "Haberdasher to the Prince of Wales;"<sup>2</sup> and in accordance with the prosperity of the times, carried on a more fashionable and extensive business than had previously been attempted in Edinburgh. He subsequently removed to that shop in the High Street, at the corner of Hunter Square—which property he purchased in 1792. Mr. Gilchrist was in every respect a worthy citizen—eminent as a trader—and highly esteemed both in public and private life. He was elected a member of the Town Council in 1796, held the office of Treasurer in 1797-8, and was chosen one of the Magistrates in 1801.

In person he was remarkably handsome, and always exhibited the nicest attention to neatness and propriety in his dress. He was social in disposition—free without levity; and, although by no means given to indulgence, possessed so much of the *civic taste* attributed to a past era, as to make him a very suitable participator in the luxuries of a civic banquet. Indeed, prior to the introduction of the present "*bare-bone*" system, the science of good eating is allowed to have been admirably understood by the corporation. It is told of Mr. Gilchrist, that while engaged on one occasion with his brother councillors in discussing the dishes of a well-replenished table, and observing the last cut of a superior haunch of venison just in the act of being appropriated by the dexterous hand of the town-clerk—"Hold," cried he, willing to test the *official* estimate of the precious morsel, "I'll give ye half-a-crown for the plate." "Done," said Mr. Gray, at the same time making the transfer—"down with your money." Mr. Gilchrist at once tabled the amount, and thus had his joke and his venison.

<sup>1</sup> Lord Provost Spittal was for many years in this establishment.

<sup>2</sup> It is in allusion to this that the artist has placed the Prince of Wales' coronet at the foot of the engraving.

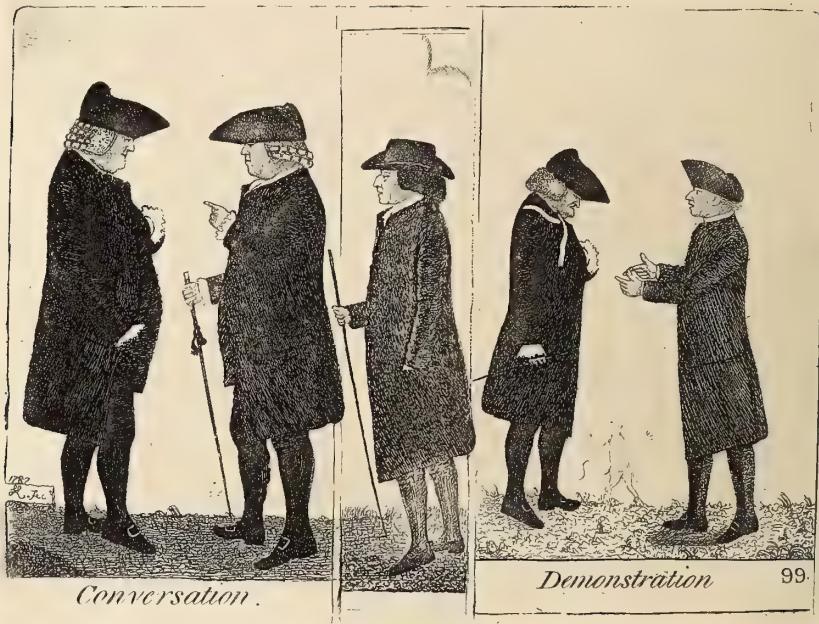
Mr. Gilchrist died upon the 10th September 1804, at the premature age of thirty-eight. He was succeeded in the business by his brother William, who also attained to the magistracy, and died in 1826.

Of the two surviving brothers of the family, John and Edward, the former had a respectable appointment in the Custom-House; and the latter, who was in bad health for several years, also held a situation in connection with the Port of Leith. John, who attained the age of seventy years, was yet "hale and hearty," and an excellent representative of the old school. No one who ever met him at the social board, or experienced the kindness of his welcome, and the exhilarating effects of a glass and a song at his "ain fireside," could fail to recognise in his robust person, and free and hospitable manners, a characteristic specimen of the last century inhabitants of Edinburgh.<sup>1</sup> He held his appointment in the Custom-House nearly twenty-seven years, and faithfully discharged the duties of the office during that long period. He was so universally esteemed, that, on retiring from office in 1827, he had the honour of being presented with a massive box from the "Merchants and Officers of the Customs at the Port of Leith." In the language of Mr. Cassels, who addressed Mr. Gilchrist on the occasion, it might well be said that, having during the long period of his official service "uniformly enjoyed, not only the approbation of his superiors and the friendship of his associates, but the unqualified opinion of the merchants and traders of the port, it must be allowed that he has conducted himself in every way becoming an officer and a gentleman."

Mr. Archibald Gilchrist married a Miss M'Callum, daughter of a Glasgow merchant, and by her had seven children, most of whom died when young. Eliza, the eldest daughter, was married to a Dr. Carrick of London, and died there.

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Gilchrist is well known in Edinburgh as an amateur vocalist of no common excellence. He was one of the original members of the "Harmonists' Society," instituted in 1826 by Mr. John Mather of Sheffield. To the last he attended their meetings, and took part in the performances with all the enthusiasm of his younger years. His range of songs embraced many of the most popular productions known to the musical world—whether of the grave or gay, the lively or severe. Indeed, it was astonishing to hear such songs as "The Sea"—"Black-Eyed Susan"—or "The Wolf," sung by a septuagenarian with all the spirit and pathos of youth, and with a voice neither deficient in harmony nor power. The musical talents of Mr. Gilchrist have been repeatedly noticed in the public journals of this city. In reporting the annual dinner of the "Harmonists' Society," in 1834, a writer in the Caledonian Mercury observes—"Among other distinguished amateurs, we were happy to notice Mr. Gilchrist, the celebrated sexagenarian vocalist, flourishing in all the freshness of a green old age, and with a voice that appears to gather strength with his advancing years. We trust we shall not excite the jealousy of the professional gentlemen present, if we state that Mr. Gilchrist's singing of "The Sea" was the most striking performance of the evening. To a voice of great natural power and compass, Mr. Gilchrist adds a highly finished execution, which he can only have attained by the most assiduous culture." \* \* \* The other newspapers alluded to Mr. Gilchrist in similar terms of approbation.





*Conversation.*

*Demonstration*

99.

## No. XCIX.

JOHN DAVIDSON, ESQ., AND LORD HENDERLAND.

GEORGE PATON, ESQ.

LORD MONBODDO AND DR. HUTTON.

MR. JOHN DAVIDSON, the first figure in the division entitled “Conversation,” was the son of a bookseller in Edinburgh, and followed the profession of a Writer to the Signet. During the greater part of his life he enjoyed, perhaps, the most lucrative and respectable business in Edinburgh. He was a man of superior abilities, and of great acuteness and industry. His literary acquirements were highly estimated by his friends, to whom he frequently rendered valuable assistance. Principal Robertson, in the preface of his History of Scotland, which was given to the world in 1759, makes honourable mention of Mr. Davidson in these words:—“The facts and observations which relate to Mary’s letters, I owe to my friend Mr. John Davidson, one of the Clerks of the Signet, who hath examined this point with his usual acuteness and industry.”

Mr. Davidson printed, but did not publish, two tracts: the one on the Regiam Majestatem, and the other on the Black Acts. In 1771 he printed for private distribution a thin 4to volume, entitled “Accounts of the Chamberlain of Scotland in 1329, 1330, and 1331, from the originals in the Exchequer, with some other curious Papers.”<sup>1</sup>

For many years Mr. Davidson was agent for the Crown. He had an only son, who died before him in early life. The late Mr. Hugh Warrender, his first clerk, succeeded to his business at his death, which occurred at Edinburgh on the 29th December 1797. The house built by Mr. Davidson, and for sixty years successively inhabited by him and Mr. Warrender, was the uppermost house on the Castle Hill, next to the Castle, on the north side of the street, and became the property of Sir George Warrender, Bart., who inherited it under the settlement of his relative. The founder of the family, and first baronet, was a tradesman of Edinburgh at the beginning of last century; a circumstance on which Sir George prides himself exceedingly.

The estate of Stewartfield, acquired by Mr. Davidson, was, in consequence of a destination in his settlement, inherited by a younger son of Lord Glenlee.

LORD HENDERLAND is represented as engaged in conversation with Mr. Davidson—each in the attitude which, upon such occasions, he was wont

<sup>1</sup> In some copies a third appendix is to be found, of which only about a dozen copies were thrown off.

to assume. These two gentlemen had been acquainted from infancy; and during a long period their intimacy had suffered no interruption. His lordship's name was Alexander Murray. He was the son of Archibald Murray, Esq. of Murrayfield, advocate, and born at Edinburgh in 1736. Being early designed for the profession of the law, he was admitted a member of the Faculty of Advocates in 1758. He was appointed to the Sheriffdom of Peebles in 1761, and succeeded his father as one of the Commissaries of Edinburgh in 1765. In the course of a few years he became Solicitor-General for Scotland, in the room of Mr. Henry Dundas, who had been made Lord Advocate. He was elected member of Parliament for the county of Peebles, and soon after was raised to the bench, and received what is called a double gown,—on which occasion he assumed the designation of Lord Henderland, from an estate he possessed in Peeblesshire. He also held the office of Clerk of the Pipe in the Court of Exchequer; an office which, through the interest of Lord Melville, was given to his two sons.

Lord Henderland died in 1795, leaving two sons and a daughter, the issue of his marriage with Katherine, daughter of Sir Alexander Lindsay of Eveleck. Mrs. Murray died in 1828. The eldest son, William, joined the English bar. John Archibald, his youngest son, while Lord Advocate for Scotland, was four times elected member of Parliament for the Leith district of burghs.<sup>1</sup> His daughter, Amelia Jane, died unmarried in 1798.

MR. GEORGE PATON, whose figure occupies the centre division, was a keen bibliographer and antiquary. His father, Mr. John Paton, a respectable bookseller in the Old Parliament Square, was one of the committee of philanthropic citizens who, in conjunction with the worthy Provost Drummond, originated that invaluable institution, the Royal Infirmary. The facts and circumstances in the history of Mr. Paton, the younger, are scanty. He received a liberal education, but without any professional design, having been bred by his father to his own business. This, however, he relinquished, on obtaining a clerkship in the Custom-House, at a salary for many years of only £60. In this humble situation, the emoluments of which were subsequently augmented to £80, he continued during the remainder of his long life, apparently without the smallest desire of attaining either to higher honour or greater wealth.

The chief aim of his ambition seemed to be the acquisition of such monuments of antiquity as might tend to elucidate the literature, history, and topography of his native country. His father had been an antiquary of some research, and at his death left a valuable collection, which the subject of our sketch took care, by every means within the compass of his narrow income, to augment. As illustrative of the strong bibliomania both in father and son, it is told of them, that whenever they happened to meet with any curious publication, instead of exposing it in the shop for sale, they immediately placed it in

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Murray was afterwards raised to the bench, and took the title of Lord Murray.

their private library. By singular regularity in the arrangement of his time, and strict frugality, Mr. Paton not only discharged his duties in the Custom-House with fidelity, but found leisure to acquire a degree of antiquarian lore, and was enabled to increase his curious collections to an extent seldom attained by a single individual.

He was well known to almost all the literary characters of his own country, and to many English antiquaries and men of letters. Apparently unambitious of figuring in the world as an author himself, Mr. Paton was by no means chary of assisting others. His services—his knowledge—his time—as well as his library,<sup>1</sup> were at the command of all his friends. These ultimately became a sort of common, where our antiquarian writers of last century were wont to luxuriate, and whence they would return, like bees, each to his own peculiar locality, laden with the spoil obtained from the stores of this singularly obliging and single-hearted individual.

Mr. Paton was thus led into a very extended circle of literary acquaintance, with whom he maintained a constant and very voluminous correspondence. Amongst others, we may instance Lord Hailes, Dr. Robertson, Gough,<sup>2</sup> Percy, Ritson, Pennant, George Chalmers (author of *Caledonia*), Captain Grose, Callander of Craigforth, Riddle of Glenriddle, Law (author of the “*Fauna Orcadensis*”), Herd (the Collector of Scottish Ballads), etc.

Of the “Paton Correspondence,” preserved in the Advocates’ Library, two small volumes have been published; the one in 1829, the other in 1830. The former is entitled “Letters from Joseph Ritson, Esq., to George Paton;” the latter, “Letters from Thomas Percy, D.D. (afterwards Bishop of Dromore), John Callander of Craigforth, David Herd, and others, to George Paton.” These volumes, not generally known, from the limited impression thrown off, are enriched by many interesting editorial notes, and are highly entertaining and curious. They also bear unquestionable testimony to the status in which Mr. Paton was held as a literary antiquary, and to the alacrity with which he laboured to supply the desiderata of his friends.

It is a curious fact, however, that, with the exception of Gough, few or none of those who were so materially indebted to him for information and assistance had the candour to acknowledge the source from whence they were aided; and many of them afterwards seemed desirous of suppressing all knowledge of the fact. The correspondence between Gough and Paton at once shows the extent and importance of the information furnished by the latter; and, indeed, this is acknowledged in handsome terms by Gough, in the preface to his *new edition* of the *British Topography*. Alluding to the article upon Scottish topography, he says—“by the indefatigable attention of his very ingenious and communicative friend, Mr. George Paton, of the Custom House, Edinburgh,”

<sup>1</sup> It is said the late Archibald Constable derived much of his knowledge of the rarity of books from his acquaintance with Mr. Paton.

<sup>2</sup> Two large volumes of Mr. Paton’s letters to Gough, full of important literary and topographical information, are in the library of the Faculty of Advocates.

he had been enabled nearly to double the space which the article occupied in the first volume.

In the collection and arrangement of his ancient "Scottish Ballads," David Herd received material assistance from Mr. Paton; and there are even strong reasons for believing that he "partly, if not wholly, edited the first edition."

Mr. Paton remained all his life a bachelor; but, although naturally of a retiring disposition—solitary in his domestic habits—and by no means voluble in general conversation, he was neither selfish in his disposition, nor unsocial in the circle of those friends with whom kindred pursuits and sentiments brought him into association. The best proof of this is the fact of his having regularly frequented "Johnie Dowie's tavern"—the well-known rendezvous of the Scottish literati during the latter part of the last century. In a humorous description of this "howff," ascribed to the muse of Mr. Hunter of Blackness, the subject of this sketch is alluded to in one of the verses:—

"O, Geordie Robertson, dreigh loun,  
And antiquarian Paton soun',  
Wi' mony ithers i' the toun,  
What will come o'er ye,  
Gif Johnie Dowie should stag down  
To the grave before ye?"

A farther illustration of the social habits, as well as a glimpse of the peculiar domestic economy of "antiquarian Paton," is given in a pleasant editorial note affixed to one of David Herd's Letters to Mr. Paton, which letter is dated "*Johnie Dowie's, Tuesday evening,*" 23d December 1788.—"For many years of his life our friend (the antiquary) invariably adjourned to take his bottle of ale and gude 'buff'd herring,' or 'roasted skate and ingans,' to this far-famed tavern, which was divided into cells, each sufficient, with good packing, to hold six persons; and there, with Herd, Cumming of the Lyon Office, and other friends of the same kidney, the evenings pleasantly passed away. These meetings were not unfrequently enlivened by the presence, at one period, of Fergusson the poet, and more recently of Burns. Let it not be supposed that honest George indulged in habits of intemperance. Such was not his custom; one bottle of ale would suffice for him, certainly not more; and when his usual privation is considered, it is surprising how moderate his desires were. He rose early in the morning, and went to the Custom-House without tasting anything. Between four and five (afternoon) he uniformly called at the shop of a well-known bibliopolist of those times (Bailie Creech), from whom he was in the habit of picking up rarities, and refreshed himself with a drink of cold water. He would then say, 'Well, I'll go home and take breakfast.' This breakfast consisted of one cup of coffee and a slice of bread. Between seven and eight he adjourned to the place of meeting; and some of the dainties enumerated in the poem (already alluded to), and a bottle of "strong ale," formed the remaining refreshment of the day. The moment eleven "chapped" on St. Giles, he rose and retreated to his domicile in Lady Stair's Close. His signal for admittance was the sound of his cane upon the pavement as he descended. In this way this primitive and

excellent person spent the best part of his days. Upon a salary of £80 per annum, he lived contented, happy, and universally respected.”<sup>1</sup>

No man within the walls of Edinburgh, it has been said, ever passed a more inoffensive life than did “honest George Paton;” yet, by the literary services which he rendered to others, he did not escape the displeasure of one or two individuals, whom his critical strictures had offended. The article formerly mentioned—on Scottish topography—gave mighty offence to Martyn John Armstrong, who, in company with his son, had published, in 1774-5, surveys of several counties in Scotland. Armstrong addressed two very ill-natured letters—one to Paton and the other to Gough—on the subject. This philippic appears to have roused the temper of the antiquary. In writing to Gough, ignorant of the counterpart which that gentleman had received, he thus gives vent to his indignation:—“While writing this, the inclosed impudent, ignorant, scurrilous rhapsody, was brought before me; forgive my transmitting it for perusal, which be kind enough to return at pleasure. I am diffident of resolution whether such a blundering blockhead of an impostor shall have any answer made him; horse-whipping would serve him better than a reply. \* \* \* \* He is below notice, and despise him, as he is generally so here. The joint tricks of father and son being so well known in this place, they could remain no longer with us.” From this specimen of “hard words,” it may be inferred that, however quiet and inoffensive he might be, “honest George” by no means lacked spirit to resent injury or insult. From a similar cause he also incurred the displeasure of his irritable countryman and fellow-antiquary, John Pinkerton, from whom he had the honour of a very violent epistle. These petty ebullitions of offended authorship, however, which threatened to disturb the wonted quiet current of the antiquary’s life, evaporated without mischief.

The personal appearance of Mr. Paton was somewhat peculiar. His dress was plain and neat; and he always wore a black wig. Besides the etching in the print which precedes this sketch, and which is allowed to be an uncommonly faithful representation, there is a small portrait of him (a private plate) done in 1785; a “beautiful drawing” of him in chalk is also preserved by the Antiquarian Society, of which he was a member.

The death of Mr. Paton occurred on the 5th March 1807, when he had attained the great age of eighty-seven.

His valuable library<sup>2</sup> was sold by auction in 1809; and his manuscripts, prints, coins, &c., were disposed of in a similar manner in 1811. The first sale occupied a month; the latter about ten days.

LORD MONBODDO and DR. HUTTON have already been amply noticed in the preceding pages of this work. The division of the print, entitled “Demonstration,” represents these celebrated individuals in the discussion of

<sup>1</sup> Percy’s Letters to George Paton, etc., p. 87. Crown 8vo. Edinburgh, Stevenson, 1830. Of this volume only a hundred copies were printed.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Paton had a brother, who was a minister at Ecclefechan. He also left a very valuable library.

some abstruse point, which the Doctor has apparently at his “finger-ends.” The small figure with the *tail*, in the back-ground, is in allusion to Monboddo’s eccentric notions as to the original state of the human species.

No. C.

DAVID ROSS, LORD ANKERVILLE.

LORD ANKERVILLE, son of David Ross of Inverchasley, was born in 1727. After following the usual routine of studies, he was admitted to the bar in 1751. In 1756 he obtained the office of Steward-Depute of Kirkcudbright ; and, in 1763, was appointed one of the Principal Clerks of Session. This situation he continued to fill with all due credit till 1776, when, on the death of Lord Alemore, he was promoted to the bench by the title of Lord Ankerville.

He sat on the bench for twenty-nine years, during which long period we are not aware that he was distinguished for any thing very extraordinary, either in the line of his profession or out of it. There was, to be sure, one characteristic which he possessed in common with the most *profound* of his legal brethren—we mean his unswerving devotion to the “pleasures of the table,” and claret he preferred above any other species of wine ; nay, so anti-national was his taste, that his own mountain *Glenlivet*, even when presented in the alluring medium of a flowing bowl, and prepared in the most approved manner of the “land o’ cakes,” held only a secondary place in his estimation.

Every year Lord Ankerville travelled north to his seat of Tarlogie, near Tain, in Ross-shire. This long journey he performed in a leisurely manner, by short and easy stages ; and, as he dined and slept all night at the end of each, his hosts of the Highland road were careful always to have a select portion of their best claret set apart for their guest.

To choose the line of road—to regulate the distance of each day’s progress, so that he might *bivouac* to best advantage in the evening, had been an object of great consequence to the judge ; and, it may be supposed, of some difficulty at that time in the north. The acute judgment and good generalship, however, of the propounder of law, after a few experimental journeys, soon enabled him to make the most satisfactory arrangements.

The annual migration of the judge from north to south, and from south to north, thus became a matter of as nice regularity as the cuckoo’s song in spring ; and as well did the Highland innkeeper, at half-a-mile’s distance, know the rumbling, creaking chaise of the one, as he did the monotonous note of the other. The quantity of claret drank by his lordship on these annual journeys has been variously estimated ; and, although no satisfactory statement has ever been given, all agree in saying that it must have been immense.

The old judge’s love of claret did not abate with his increase of years. A



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gentleman of our acquaintance relates that he one day happened to pounce upon him at his seat of Tarlogie. Lord Ankerville had then reached his seventy-fifth year. Being alone, he had just sat down to dinner ; and not having expected a stranger, he apologised for his uncropped beard. Our friend was, of course, welcomed to the board, and experienced the genuine hospitality of a Highland mansion. After having done ample justice to the table, and when his lordship had secured a *full allowance* of claret under his belt, he went to his toilette, and, to the astonishment of his guest, appeared at supper cleanly and closely shaved, to whom he remarked, that his hand was now more steady than it would have been in the morning.

Lord Ankerville died at his seat of Tarlogie on the 16th August 1805, in the seventy-eighth year of his age. His residence in Edinburgh was in St. Andrew Square.

No. CI.

### FRANCIS HOME, M.D.,

PROFESSOR OF MATERIA MEDICA IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH,  
AND ONE OF THE KING'S PHYSICIANS FOR SCOTLAND.

DR. HOME was born on the 17th November 1719. He was the third son of Mr. Home of Eccles, an advocate, and author of several works, professional and historical. He placed his son under the charge of Mr. Cruickshanks of Dunse, then esteemed one of the best classical scholars and teachers, and who had the faculty of inspiring his scholars with a taste for classical learning. Mr. Home having chosen medicine as a profession, served an apprenticeship with Mr. Rattray, then the most eminent surgeon in Edinburgh. He afterwards studied under the medical Professors of the University of Edinburgh of the period ; and applied with so much zeal and assiduity as frequently to obtain the approbation of his teachers. He contracted friendships with many of his fellow students, which lasted through life ; and he was among the few who founded the Royal Medical Society, which has continued to the present day, and has contributed greatly to the celebrity of the Edinburgh school of medicine. After finishing his studies Mr. Home obtained a commission of surgeon in a regiment of dragoons, and joined it on the same day with his friend the late Sir William Erskine. He served in Flanders with that regiment during the whole of the "seven-years' war." Amidst the din of arms, and the desultory life of soldiers, Mr. Home did not spend his time in idleness. He discharged his duty so faithfully that he often received the approbation of his superior officers, and especially of Sir John Pringle, the head of the medical department of that army ; and he laid up a store of medical facts, many of which he afterwards published. At the end of several campaigns, instead of partaking of the relaxation and dissipation of winter quarters, Mr. Home, as often as he could obtain leave of absence, went

to Leyden, which still retained a high reputation as a medical school ; and he studied there under the medical teachers of that time.

At the termination of the war Mr. Home settled in Edinburgh, and graduated in the year 1750, choosing for the subject of his inaugural dissertation, the remittent fever which had prevailed very severely in the army—a treatise which is yet quoted as one of the best on the disease. In 1768 he obtained the Professorship of Materia Medica in the University of Edinburgh, the duties of which he executed for thirty years with great industry, zeal, and reputation. During this period he contributed, along with his other eminent colleagues, to maintain the high character of the University of Edinburgh as a medical school. He died on the 15th of February 1813, at the very advanced age of ninety-four, preserving his faculties entire till within a short period of his death.

Few physicians have done more to promote the advancement of medicine, as a science and as an art, than Dr. Home. He published several valuable and esteemed works. His "*Principia Medicinae*" contains a very excellent and scientific history of diseases. It is written in correct and elegant Latinity, showing his intimate acquaintance with the best ancient classical authors. This work contributed materially to raise his reputation, especially on the Continent, where it was soon adopted by several professors as a text-book. It has undergone several editions ; and even now, after the lapse of three-fourths of a century, and notwithstanding the great improvements in medicine, it is still one of the best and most useful compendiums on the subject. Dr. Home added numerous and very important facts to the history and treatment of many diseases, and contributed much to establish the art of medicine on the basis of experience and observation. He was the first who described "the Croup" as a separate and distinct disease ; and his account of it first called the attention of physicians to it. Although, since its first publication, much has been added to its pathology, yet Dr. Home's treatise still remains as a standard and much esteemed work on the history and treatment of this very fatal disease. His works, entitled "Medical Facts and Experiments," and his "Clinical Experiments, Histories, and Dissertations," contain a most valuable collection of very important facts regarding the history of diseases and their treatment ; and they introduced several new remedies, many of which still stand the test of the experience of more than half a century.

Dr. Home did not confine his observations and publications to medicine alone. His work, entitled "Experiments on Bleaching," for which he obtained a gold medal from the Honourable Board of Trustees for the Improvement of Manufactures in North Britain, was published in the year 1756, by request of the Board ; and he received many testimonies of eminent manufacturers, whose art it had much improved. His treatise on *Dunse Spa*, published in 1751, brought that mineral spring into much notice. His *Essay on the Principles of Agriculture* long continued to be the best scientific account of that most important art, and obtained for him the first Professorship of Agriculture in the University of Edinburgh, which he afterwards resigned in favour of the late Dr. Coventry.





Dr. Home retained to his advanced age a taste for classical literature ; and several of his poems, known principally to his friends, have very considerable merit. The print represents Dr. Home in his ordinary and contemplative mode of walking the streets of Edinburgh.

No. CII.

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF HADDINGTON,  
SIR WILLIAM FORBES OF PITSLIGO, BART.,  
AND SIR JAMES HUNTER BLAIR, BART.

THOMAS, SEVENTH EARL OF HADDINGTON, who is here represented as walking with his favourite little dog behind him, was born in 1720, and succeeded his grandfather to the titles and estates in 1735. His father was the amiable and accomplished Lord Binning, whose premature death was universally regretted. The specimens of Lord Binning's poetical talents which remain, warrant the inference that, had he not been prematurely cut off, he would have taken a high station among the poets of his native land. His son set out on his travels, accompanied by his brother George, in 1740 ; and the same year they became members of the "Common Room," just then established at Geneva.

His lordship was twice married ; first, in 1750, to Mary, daughter of Rowland Holt, Esq., of Redgrave, county of Suffolk, by whom he had two sons, viz. Charles, afterwards Eighth Earl of Haddington, and the Hon. Thomas Hamilton, who died in 1774. On the death of the Countess at Edinburgh in 1785, the Earl again married, in 1786, the eldest daughter of Sir Charles Gascoigne, Knight, by whom he had one daughter, who died in infancy.

His lordship died at Ham, in Surrey, on the 19th May 1794, in his seventy-fourth year.

SIR WILLIAM FORBES<sup>1</sup> will be easily recognised in the centre figure of the group. We have, in No. LXXII., already given a sketch of the life and

<sup>1</sup> In our former notice of Sir William, we stated that he was maternally descended from the Lords of Pitsligo. His grandson, Sir John Stuart Forbes, became next heir of the family—the Master of Pitsligo having died without issue. Alexander, the last Lord Pitsligo, was attainted in 1745. He had been out with Mar in 1715, and for several years afterwards took refuge in France. Although an old man (being sixty-seven years of age) when Prince Charles raised his standard in 1745, Lord Pitsligo again took the field, at the head of a party of Aberdeenshire gentlemen, forming a body of well-equipped cavalry, about one hundred strong, with whom he joined the Pretender in Edinburgh after the battle of Preston. He shared in all the subsequent movements of the Jacobite army ; and, after the final overthrow at Culloden, instead of flying abroad, he found shelter in his native country, and among his own peasantry. His preservation was very extraordinary, and can only be attributed to the excellence of his character, and the esteem in which he was held by all who knew him. The

character of this worthy gentleman ; but it may not be here altogether out of place to record an instance of that independence of principle which so much distinguished him in every transaction. Being frequently called to sit as a jurymen, and on many of these occasions chosen chancellor, Sir William had occasional opportunities not only of displaying an extensive knowledge of the laws and constitution of his country, but also of manifesting a spirit sensible of the liberties of the subject, and resolute to maintain them. In a trial on one occasion, for sheep-stealing, the judge on the bench having expressed his dissatisfaction with the verdict of the jury—acquitting the prisoner—Sir William, with the warmth natural to just feeling, reminded his lordship that “the jury were upon oath—that they had acted accordingly—that they considered themselves as judges of the *law* as well as of the *fact*—and that while they sat in judgment they had no superiors ! ”

Of SIR JAMES HUNTER BLAIR, the partner of Sir William, a memoir has already been given—(No. XXVIII.)

place of his concealment was for some time a cave, constructed under the arch of a bridge, at a remote part of the moors of Pitsligo, and the disguise which he assumed was that of a mendicant. This disguise, though it did not deceive his friends and tenants, saved them from the danger of receiving him in his own person, and served as a protection against soldiers and officers of justice, who were desirous to apprehend him for sake of the price set upon his head. On one occasion he was seized with asthma, just as a patrol of soldiers were coming up behind him. Having no other expedient, he sat down by the road-side, and anxiously waiting their approach, begged alms of the party, and actually received them from a good-natured fellow, who condoled with him at the same time on the severity of his asthma.

In this way the romantic adventures and narrow escapes of the old Lord Pitsligo were numerous and interesting. At length, in 1748, the estate having been confiscated and seized upon by Government, the search became less rigorous. His only son, the Master of Pitsligo, had married the daughter of James Ogilvy of Auchries, and the house of Auchries received the proscribed nobleman occasionally under the name of Mr. Brown. The search, however, was frequently renewed ; and on the last occasion his escape was so very singular, that it “made a deep impression at the time, and was long narrated by some of the actors in it, with those feelings of awe which the notion of an approach even to the supernatural never fails to produce.

“In March 1756, and of course long after all apprehension of a search had ceased, information having been given to the then commanding officer at Fraserburgh, that Lord Pitsligo was at that moment in the house of Auchries, it was acted upon with so much promptness and secrecy, that the search must have proved successful, but for a very singular occurrence. Mrs. Sophia Donaldson, a lady who lived much with the family, repeatedly dreamed on that particular night that the house was surrounded by soldiers. Her mind became so haunted with the idea, that she got out of bed, and was walking through the room in hopes of giving a different current to her thoughts before she lay down again, when, day beginning to dawn, she accidentally looked out at the window as she passed it in traversing the room, and was astonished at actually observing the figures of soldiers among some trees near the house. So completely had all idea of a search been by that time laid asleep, that she supposed they had come to steal poultry ; Jacobite poultry-yards affording a safe object of pillage for the English soldiers in those days. Under this impression Mrs. Sophia was proceeding to rouse the servants, when her sister, having awaked, and inquiring what was the matter, and being told of soldiers near the house, exclaimed, in great alarm, that she feared they wanted something more than hens ! She begged Mrs. Sophia to look out at a window on the other side of the house, when not only soldiers were seen in that direction, but also an officer giving instructions by signals, and frequently putting his fingers on his lips, as if enjoining silence. There was now no time to be lost in rousing the family ; and all the haste that could be made was scarcely sufficient to hurry the venerable man from his bed into a small recess behind the wainscot of an adjoining room, which was concealed by a bed, in which a lady, Miss Gordon of Towie, who was there on a visit, lay, before the soldiers obtained





## No. CIII.

## DR. WILLIAM CULLEN.

THIS etching of one of the great fathers of modern medicine was executed in 1784, and represents the Doctor at the venerable age of seventy-five.

DR. WILLIAM CULLEN was born in the parish of Hamilton, county of Lanark, in the year 1710. He received the first part of his education under Mr. Brisbane, at the grammar-school of Hamilton ; and, having chosen medicine as a profession, he was apprenticed to a surgeon-apothecary in the city of Glasgow. It does not appear that he went through a regular course of education at the University, so that the chief means of improvement he possessed at this time were derived from observing his master's practice, and perusing such medical works as fell in his way. It is not known at what age he went to Glasgow, nor how long he continued there ; but in very early life he engaged as a surgeon to a vessel that traded between London and the West Indies, and performed several voyages in that capacity. Disliking a seafaring life, he attempted to get into medical practice in his native country, and first settled in the parish of Shotts. He remained there only for a short time, and then removed to Hamilton, where he was chosen one of the magistrates of that burgh. The Duke of Hamilton happening to be taken suddenly ill, Dr. Cullen was called in ; and

admission. A most minute search took place. The room in which Lord Pitsligo was concealed did not escape. Miss Gordon's bed was carefully examined ; and she was obliged to suffer the scrutiny of one of the party, by feeling her chin, to ascertain that it was not a man in lady's night-dress. Before the soldiers had finished their examination in this room, the confinement and anxiety increased. Lord Pitsligo's asthma so much, and his breathing became so loud, that it cost Miss Gordon, lying in bed, much and violent coughing, which she counterfeited, in order to prevent the high breathings behind the wainscot being heard. It may easily be conceived what agony she would suffer, lest, by overdoing her part, she should increase suspicion, and in fact lead to a discovery. The ruse was fortunately successful. On the search through the house being given over, Lord Pitsligo was hastily taken from his confined situation, and again replaced in bed ; and as soon as he was able to speak, his accustomed kindness of heart made him say to his servant, ‘James, go and see that these poor fellows get some breakfast, and a drink of warm ale, for this is a cold morning ; they are only doing their duty, and cannot bear me any ill-will.’ When the family were felicitating each other on his escape, he pleasantly observed, ‘A poor prize had they obtained it—an old dying man !’

By degrees the heat of civil rancour ceased, and Lord Pitsligo, like others in his situation, was permitted to steal back into the circle of his friends, unpersecuted and unnoticed. The venerable old nobleman was thus suffered to remain at his son's residence of Auchiries unmolested during the last years of an existence protracted to the extreme verge of human life. He died on the 21st December 1762, in the eighty-fifth year of his age. The character of Lord Pitsligo was of the most amiable description, and he embarked in the cause of the exiled Stuarts from national feelings alone. He was a Protestant, of the Episcopal Church, and sincerely attached to his religion. He was of a literary turn of mind ; and left behind him several manuscript essays, which were published shortly after his death. To one of these—entitled “Thoughts Concerning Man's Condition and Duties in this Life, and his Hopes in the World to come :” Edinburgh, Whyte & Co.—an interesting memoir of his life is prefixed.

his mode of treatment was much approved by Dr. David Clark, who had been brought from Edinburgh. This accidental circumstance added much to his medical reputation in that quarter.

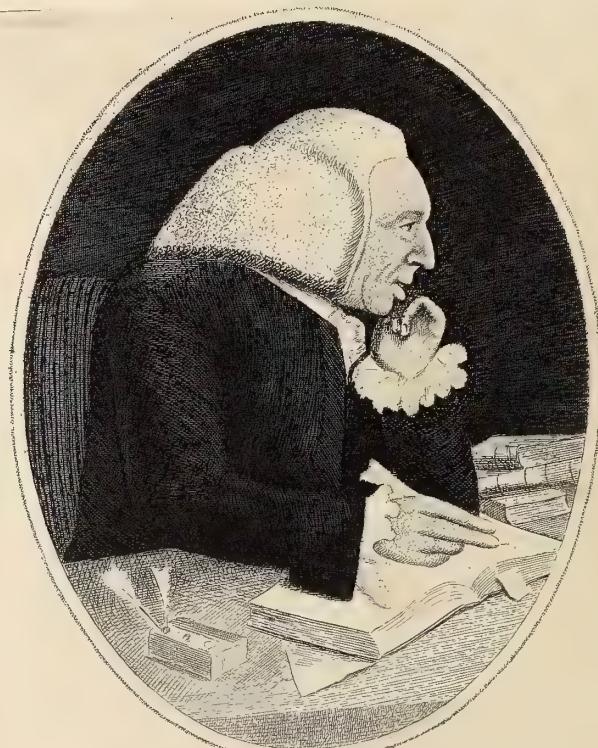
During his residence at Hamilton, Dr. Cullen became acquainted with Mr. William Hunter. These two celebrated characters, who were destined to do so much, each in his own line, for the advancement of medical science, had very early entered into habits of the strictest intimacy. Dr. Hunter had been originally intended for the Church ; and with that view had attended some of the classes at the University of Glasgow. Cullen's conversation, however, gave a different direction to his studies, and he resolved to study medicine.

In consequence of the extension of his practice, Cullen resolved to apply to the University of Glasgow for a medical degree, and this he accordingly obtained upon the 14th September 1740. On the 13th November 1741, he married Ann Johnston, the daughter of a neighbouring clergyman, by whom he had a numerous family. His eldest son, Robert, was a Lord of Session and Justiciary.

During the residence of Dr. Cullen in Hamilton, Archibald Earl of Islay, afterwards Duke of Argyle, being in that part of the country, required some chemical apparatus. It was suggested to him that Dr. Cullen was more likely to have what his lordship wanted than any other person. He was accordingly invited to dinner by his lordship, and fortunately made himself very agreeable. This interview was one of the chief causes of his future rise in life. He had secured the patronage of the Prime Minister of Scotland, the future Duke of Argyle, besides the countenance of the Duke of Hamilton. In 1746 the Lectureship on Chemistry in the University of Glasgow, which is in the gift of the College, became vacant. Cullen offered himself as a candidate, and was accordingly elected. He commenced his lectures in the month of October of the same year. In 1751 the Professorship of Medicine (in the gift of the Crown) becoming vacant, the interest of Argyle procured it for him. He appears to have taught both classes. In 1755 he transmitted a paper to the Physical and Literary Society of Edinburgh, "On the cold produced by evaporating fluids, and of some other means of producing cold,"—the only chemical essay he ever published.

In 1756 he was unanimously elected Professor of Chemistry in the University of Edinburgh, where the medical school was already formed ; and he had much greater incitements to exertion than he had in Glasgow. Dr. Whytt, who taught the Institutes of Medicine, died in 1766, and Dr. Cullen obtained the vacant chair. Dr. John Gregory, a short time before, had succeeded to the chair of the Practice of Physic ; and these two Professors continued each to teach his own class for three sessions. At the conclusion of the session, 12th April 1769, Dr. Cullen proposed to the patrons that Dr. Gregory and he should alternately teach the Institutes and the Practice. This was complied with ; and it was declared that the survivor should have in his option which professorship he preferred. Upon the lamented death of Dr. Gregory, 10th February 1773,





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Dr. Cullen chose the Practice ; and upon the 17th of the same month he was duly installed into the office.

## No. CIV.

## DR. CULLEN IN HIS STUDY.

THIS Print appears to have been executed three years subsequent to the preceding, and exhibits the celebrated Professor as engaged in finishing his "Treatise on the Materia Medica"—the last of his published productions.

When DR. CULLEN taught the "Institutes," he published "Heads of Lectures for the use of Students in the University of Edinburgh," but he proceeded no farther than physiology. In 1772 appeared, in two volumes octavo, "Synopsis Nosologiae Methodicæ," which was written in Latin. The merit of this performance is universally admitted. He criticised impartially the works of those who had gone before him in this department of medical science, and candidly pointed out in what respects his own arrangement might be objected to. This seems to have been particularly designed in order to prepare the public for his great work, which he was then composing, and which was looked for with general impatience : it, however, did not appear till 1776. It was entitled "First Lines of the Practice of Physic." Its circulation through Europe was both rapid and extensive. It became exceedingly popular, and not only raised his reputation very high, but enriched him considerably, as it is said to have produced upwards of three thousand pounds sterling. About a year before his death he published "A Treatise on the Materia Medica," in two volumes quarto.

The high respect in which the genius and character of the venerable Professor were held by the patrons, professors, and students of the University of Edinburgh, as also by societies in Ireland and America, will appear from the following addresses and resolutions :—

"On the 8th January 1790, the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Council of Edinburgh voted a piece of plate, of fifty guineas value, to Dr. Cullen, as a testimony of their respect for his distinguished merits and abilities, and his eminent services to the University, during the period of thirty-four years in which he has held an academical chair. On the plate was engraved an inscription expressive of the high sense the Magistrates, as patrons of the University, had of the merit of the Professor, and of their esteem and regard."

"A meeting of the pupils of Dr. Cullen was held on the 12th, in the Medical Hall, when an address to the Doctor was agreed upon, and ordered to be presented by the following gentlemen :—Dr. Jackman, Mr. Gagahan, and Mr. Gray, annual presidents of the Medical Society ; Dr. Black, Dr. Gregory, Dr. Duncan, Mr. Alexander Wood, Mr. Benjamin Bell, Dr. James Hamilton, and Dr. Charles Stuart. A motion was also made, and unanimously agreed to, that a statue, or some durable monument of the Doctor, should be erected in a proper place, to perpetuate the fame of the illustrious Professor. The execution of this, and of all necessary measures for the purpose, was also committed to the above gentlemen.

"The Royal Physical Society presented an address to Dr. Cullen. The gentlemen of the deputation were very politely received by the Doctor's sons, Robert (afterwards Lord Cullen), and Dr. Henry Cullen (Dr. Cullen himself being much indisposed), and a suitable answer returned."

Similar addresses were presented by the Hibernian Medical Society and by the American Physical Society of Edinburgh.

The following resolution was agreed to by the Senatus Academicus of the University of Edinburgh :—

“Edinburgh College, January 27.—The Principal and the Professors of the University of Edinburgh being this day convened in the Senatus Academicus, Dr. Gregory informed them that, at a meeting of the Royal Medical Society, and of the other gentlemen, the former and present pupils of Dr. Cullen, it had been resolved to erect some durable monument of grateful respect for their venerable instructor ; and the committee appointed for carrying this determination into execution, thinking a conspicuous place in the new College would be most proper for that purpose, he was empowered to request, in their name, the consent of the Senatus Academicus.

“The members of the Senatus Academicus, thoroughly acquainted with the eminent and various talents of their illustrious colleague, and sensible how much they have contributed towards increasing the reputation of the school of medicine in the University, unanimously expressed the warmest approbation of this resolution ; and they have no doubt their venerable patrons, who, with their usual attention to the welfare of the University, have already given a public and honourable testimony of the estimation in which they hold the genius and merit of Dr. Cullen, will readily concur with them in granting what is desired. And the Senatus Academicus desired their secretary to furnish Dr. Gregory with an extract of this minute, to be by him communicated to the Royal Medical Society, and the other gentlemen concerned.

(Signed)      “WM. ROBERTSON, Principal.  
                  “ANDW. DALZIEL, Secretary.”

Dr. Cullen, now far advanced in years, had thus the satisfaction of anticipating, from these flattering testimonials of respect, in what estimation his character was likely to be held by posterity. He died at his house in the Mint Close, on the 5th of February 1790, aged eighty-one.

No. CV.

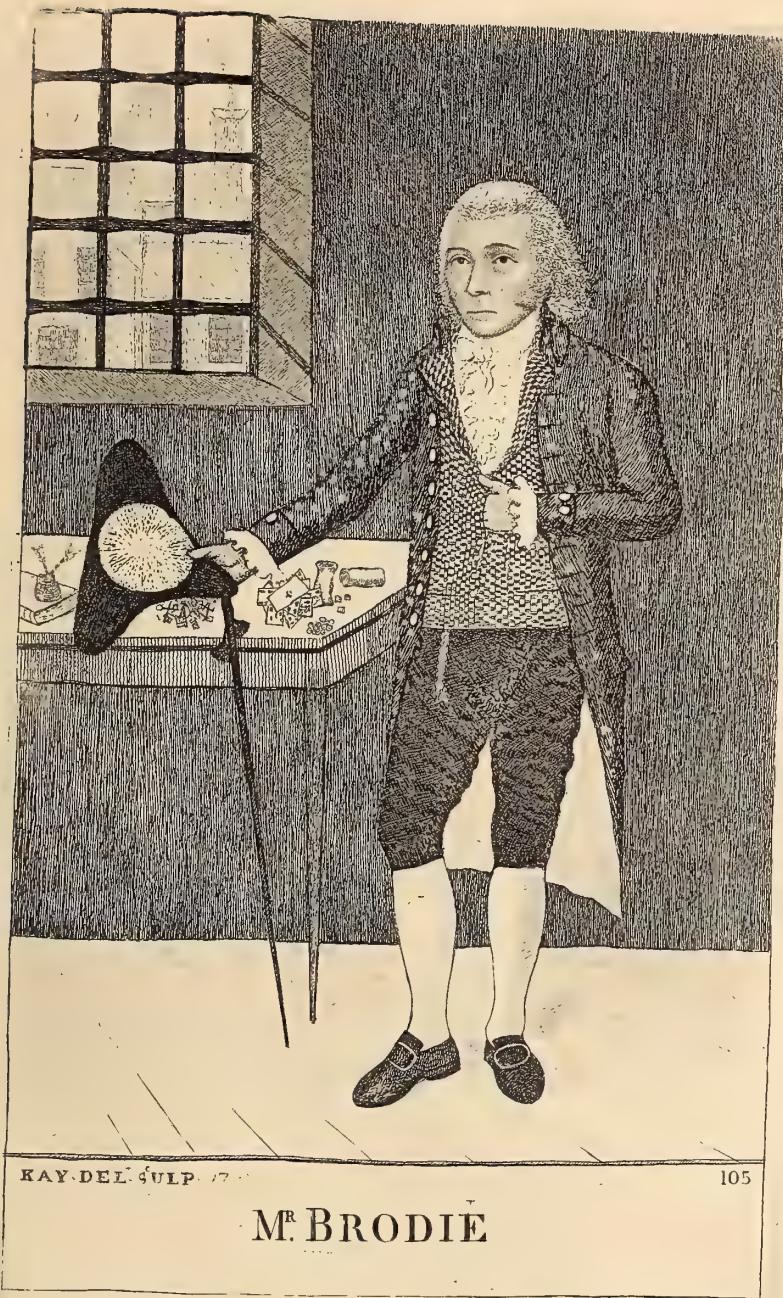
### WILLIAM BRODIE,

DEACON OF THE INCORPORATION OF WRIGHTS AND MASONs, EDINBURGH.

THE trial of this individual for breaking into the Excise Office (then in Chessel's Court, Canongate), on the 5th March 1788, created an unprecedented excitement in Edinburgh, arising not only from the extent and aggravated nature of the burglary, but from the respectable sphere of life in which the criminal previously moved.

His father, Convenor Francis Brodie, carried on an extensive trade as a wright and cabinet-maker in the Lawmarket, and was for many years a member of the Town Council. On his death in 1780, his only son, William, succeeded to his business ; and he was, in 1781, chosen one of the ordinary Deacon Councillors of the City.

Unfortunately for the prosperity of the young deacon, he had at an early period imbibed a taste for gambling, and acquired considerable expertness in turning



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M<sup>R</sup>. BRODIE



this degrading vice to account as a source of revenue ; and it appears, from an action raised against him by one Hamilton, a chimney-sweeper, that he did not scruple to have recourse to the usual tricks resorted to by professed gamblers.<sup>1</sup> In the gratification of this ruling passion, he was in the habit of meeting, almost nightly, a club of gamblers at a house of a most disreputable description, kept by a person of the name of Clark, in the Fleshmarket Close. Notwithstanding his profligate habits, Brodie had the address to prevent them from becoming public ; and he contrived to maintain a fair character among his fellow-citizens. So successful was he in blinding the world, that he continued a member of the Council until within a short period of the time he committed the crime for which he afterwards suffered ; and it is a singular fact that, little more than a month previously, he sat as a juryman in a criminal cause, in that very court where he himself soon afterwards received sentence of death !

Although Brodie had for many years been licentious and dissipated, it is believed that it was not until 1786 that he commenced that career of crime which he ultimately expiated on the scaffold. About that time he became acquainted with his fellow-culprit, George Smith ; and shortly afterwards, at the gambling haunt, with Ainslie and Brown—men of the lowest grade and most abandoned principles. The motives that induced Brodie to league himself with these desperate men are not very obvious. In comfortable circumstances, and holding situations of trust among his fellow-citizens, it is not easy to guess what could impel him to a line of conduct so very unaccountable. Let his motives have been what they might, however, Brodie, from his professional knowledge and his station in society, had great facilities for furthering his contemplated depredations, and he became the leader of these miscreants, who acted by his orders, and were guided by his information.

About the latter end of 1787 a series of robberies were committed in and around Edinburgh, and no clue could be had of the perpetrators. Shops were opened, and goods disappeared, as if by magic.<sup>2</sup> The whole city at last became alarmed. In the most of these Brodie was either actively or passively concerned ; but it was not until the last “ fatal affair ”—the robbery of the Excise Office—that he was discovered, and the whole machinery laid open.

This undertaking, it appears, was wholly suggested and planned by Brodie.

<sup>1</sup> In this action he is accused of having used loaded or false dice, by which Hamilton lost upwards of six guineas.

<sup>2</sup> An old lady mentions that a female friend of hers, who, from indisposition, was unable to go one Sunday to church, was, during divine worship, and in the absence of her servant, surprised by the entrance of a man, with a crape over his face, into the room where she was sitting. He very coolly took up the keys which were lying on the table before her, opened her bureau, and took out a considerable sum of money that had been placed there. He meddled with nothing else, but immediately re-locked the bureau, replaced the keys on the table, and, making a low bow, retired. The lady was panic-struck the whole time. Upon the exit of her mysterious visitor, she exclaimed, “ Surely that was Deacon Brodie ! ” But the improbability of a person of his opulence turning a housebreaker, induced her to preserve silence at the time. Subsequent events, however, soon proved the truth of her surmises.

A friend of his, a Mr. Corbett from Stirling, had occasion to visit the Excise Office for the purpose of drawing money. Brodie accompanied him ; and while in the cashier's room the idea first occurred to him. He immediately acquainted his colleagues with the design, and frequently after made calls at the Office, under a pretence of asking for Mr. Corbett, but with the sole purpose of becoming better acquainted with the premises. On one of these visits in company with Smith, he observed the key of the outer door hanging on a nail, from which he took an impression of the wards with putty ; and on the night of the 30th November, with the key formed from this model, they opened the outer door, by way of experiment, but proceeded no farther.

It was not till the 5th of March following that the final attempt was made ; on which occasion all hands were engaged. Their plan of procedure was previously well concerted, and their tools prepared. They were to meet in the house of Smith about seven o'clock ; but Brodie did not appear till eight, when he came dressed in an old-fashioned suit of black, and armed with a brace of pistols. He seemed in high spirits for the adventure, and was chanting the well-known ditty from the "Beggars' Opera :—"

"Let us take the road,  
Hark ! I hear the sound of coaches !  
The hour of attack approaches ;  
To your arms, brave boys, and load.  
See the ball I hold ;  
Let the chemists toil like asses—  
Our fire their fire surpasses,  
And turns our lead to gold."

Brodie also brought with him some small keys and a double picklock. Particular duties were assigned to each. Ainslie was to keep watch in the court-yard—Brodie inside the outer door—while Smith and Brown were to enter the cashier's room. The mode of giving alarm was by means of a whistle bought by Brodie the day before, with which Ainslie was to call once, if only one person approached—if two or more, he was to call thrice, and then proceed himself to the back of the building to assist Brown and Smith in escaping by the windows. All of them, save Ainslie, were armed with pistols. Brown and Smith had pieces of crape over their faces. They chose the hour of attack from the circumstance of the office being generally shut at eight o'clock, and no watchman being stationed till ten.

The party accordingly advanced to the scene of action. Ainslie and Brodie took up their respective positions, while Brown and Smith proceeded to the more arduous task of breaking into the cashier's room. Smith opened the first door with a pair of curling-irons ; but, in forcing the second or inner door, they had to use both the iron crow and the coulter of a plough, which they had previously stolen for the purpose. Having with them a dark lantern, they searched the whole apartment, opening every desk and press in it. While thus engaged a discovery had nearly taken place, the Deputy-Solicitor, Mr. James Bonnar, having occasion to return to the office about half-past eight. The outer door he

found shut, and on opening it a man in black (Brodie) hurriedly passed him, a circumstance to which, not having the slightest suspicion, he paid no attention. He went to his room up stairs, where he remained only a few minutes, and then returned, shutting the outer door hastily behind him. Perceiving this, Ainslie became alarmed, gave the signal, and retreated. Smith and Brown did not observe the call, but thinking themselves in danger when they heard Mr. Bonnar coming down stairs, they cocked their pistols, determined not to be taken. After remaining about half-an-hour, they got off with their booty, which, much to their disappointment, amounted only to £16 odds, while they expected to have found as many hundreds.<sup>1</sup> On coming out, they were surprised not to find either Brodie or Ainslie; but, after returning to their former rendezvous, the latter soon joined them. In order to prevent suspicion, Brown and Ainslie immediately went to one Fraser's, who kept a Tavern in the New Town, where, in company with some others, they supped and spent the night. Brodie, it appears, had hurried home, where he changed his dress, and then proceeded to the house of Jean Watt (who had several children to him) in Libberton's Wynd, where he remained all night. The parties met on the Friday evening following, and divided the booty in equal portions.

The robbery having been discovered about ten o'clock the same night it was committed, the town was in consternation, and the police on the alert in all directions. Brown (*alias* Humphry Moore), who appears to have been the greatest villain of the whole, was at the time under sentence of transportation for a crime committed in England; and having seen an advertisement from the Secretary of State's Office, offering a reward and a pardon to any person who should discover the robbery of Inglis and Horner's shop, he resolved on turning King's evidence, foreseeing that the public prosecutor would be under the necessity of obtaining pardon for his previous offence before he could be admitted as a witness. Accordingly, on Friday evening, immediately after securing his dividend at Smith's, he proceeded to the Procurator-Fiscal's, and gave information, but without at the time mentioning Brodie's name as connected with the transaction.<sup>2</sup> He likewise conducted the officers of justice to Salisbury Crags, where they found a number of keys concealed under a large stone, which he said were intended for future operations. In consequence of this, Ainslie, Smith, and his wife and servant-maid, were all apprehended; and, after a precognition, lodged in prison.

Brodie, suspecting he stood on ticklish ground, fled on Sunday morning; and from the masterly manner in which he accomplished his escape, baffled all pursuit for a time. On the Wednesday following, Mr. Williamson, King's messenger for Scotland, was despatched in search of him. He traced Brodie to Dunbar and Newcastle, and afterwards to London; from thence Williamson went to

<sup>1</sup> In their search they had overlooked a concealed drawer in one of the desks, where, at the very time, there was £600 deposited.

<sup>2</sup> The reason of this appears to have been an intention to procure money from Brodie for secrecy, as, on ascertaining that he had fled, he no longer kept silence.

Margate, Deal, and Dover, but lost sight of him altogether ; and after eighteen days' fruitless search, returned to Edinburgh. But for Brodie's own imprudence, impelled apparently by a sort of fatuity frequently evinced by persons similarly situated, there was every chance of his finally escaping. He remained in London, it appears, until the 23d March, when he took out his passage in the name of John Dixon, on board one of the smacks bound for Leith, called the *Endeavour*. After the vessel had gone down the river Thames, Brodie came on board in a small boat, about twelve o'clock at night, disguised as an old gentleman in bad health. He was accompanied by two of the owners, who stopped on board for a short time. On going out to sea, as it no doubt had been previously arranged, the *Endeavour* steered for Flushing instead of Leith, where Brodie was put ashore, and immediately after took a Dutch skiff for Ostend.

So far so well : but, unfortunately for Brodie, there had been a Mr. Geddes, tobacconist in Mid-Calder, and his wife, fellow passengers, with whom he frequently entered into conversation. On parting he had given Geddes three letters to deliver in Edinburgh—one addressed to his brother-in-law, Matthew Sherriff, upholsterer ; another to Michael Henderson, Grassmarket ; and the third to Ann Grant,<sup>1</sup> Cant's Close. These letters, as he might well have expected, were the means of his discovery. On landing at Leith, Geddes became acquainted with the circumstances of the robbery, and immediately suspecting that Mr. John Dixon was no other than Deacon Brodie, he opened the letters, and became doubly strengthened in his opinion ; but not having made up his mind how to proceed, Mr. Geddes did not deliver the letters to the authorities till near the end of May. Even then, however, they were the means of Brodie's apprehension, and were afterwards put in evidence against him. Information of the circumstances was instantly despatched to Sir John Potter, British Consul at Ostend, in consequence of which Brodie was traced to Amsterdam, where, on application to Sir James Harris, then Consul, he was apprehended in an alehouse through the instrumentality of one Daly, an Irishman, on the eve of his departure to America, and lodged in the Stadhouse. A Mr. Groves, messenger, was despatched from London on the 1st of July for the prisoner, by whom he was brought to London ; and from thence to Edinburgh by Mr. Williamson, who was specially sent up to take charge of him. On the journey from London, Brodie was in excellent spirits, and told many anecdotes of his sojourn in Holland.

The trial took place at the High Court of Justiciary, on the 27th August 1788, before Lords Hailes, Eskgrove, Stonefield, and Swinton.<sup>2</sup> The Court,

<sup>1</sup> Brodie's favourite mistress. She had three children to him.

<sup>2</sup> The counsel for the Prosecutor were—Ilay Campbell, Esq., Lord Advocate (afterwards Lord President) ; Robert Dundas, Esq., Solicitor-General (afterwards Lord Chief-Baron) ; William Tait, Esq., and James Wolfe Murray, Esq. (afterwards Lord Cringletie), Depute-Advocates ; and Mr. Robert Dundas, Clerk to the Signet.

For William Brodie—The Hon. Henry Erskine, Dean of Faculty ; Alexander Wight, Esq. ; Charles

from the great excitement in the public mind, was crowded to excess at an early hour. Smith and Brodie only were indicted, the other two having become "king's evidence." The trial commenced at nine o'clock in the morning of Wednesday, and the jury were inclosed till six o'clock in the morning of the following day. All the facts we have previously narrated were fully borne out by the evidence, as well as by the declarations of Smith while in prison. An attempt was made to prove an *alibi* on the part of Brodie, by means of Jean Watt and her maid ; but the jury, "all in one voice," returned a verdict finding both panels "guilty." They were sentenced, therefore, to be executed at the west end of the Luckenbooths, on Wednesday the 1st October 1788. When the sentence had been pronounced by the Lord Justice-Clerk, Brodie manifested a desire to address the Court, but was restrained by his counsel. "His behaviour during the whole trial was perfectly collected. He was respectful to the Court ; and when anything ludicrous occurred in the evidence, smiled as if he had been an indifferent spectator. His conduct on receiving sentence was equally cool and determined. Smith was much affected."

During the whole period of Brodie's confinement his self-possession and firmness never forsook him. He even at times assumed a Macheath-like boldness ; and, with an air of levity, spoke of his death as a "leap in the dark." On the Friday before his execution he was visited by his daughter, Cecill, about ten years of age ; and here "nature and the feelings of a father were superior to every other consideration ; and the falling tear, which he endeavoured to suppress, gave proof of his feeling. He embraced her with emotion, and blessed her with the warmest affection." Brodie's manner of living in prison was very abstemious ; yet his firmness and resolution seemed to increase as the fatal hour approached—the night previous to which he slept soundly for five or six hours. On the morning he suffered he conversed familiarly with a select number of his friends, and wrote a letter to the Lord Provost, requesting, as a last favour, "that as his friends, from a point of delicacy, declined witnessing his dissolution, certain gentlemen (whom he named), might be permitted to attend, and his body allowed to be carried out of prison immediately upon being taken down," —which request was readily granted.

The following account of the execution we give from one of the periodicals of the day :—

"About a quarter past two the criminals appeared on the platform, preceded by two of the Magistrates in their robes, with white staves, and attended by the Rev. Mr. Hardy, one of the ministers of Edinburgh—the Rev. Mr. Cleeve, of the Episcopal persuasion, in their gowns, and the

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Hay, Esq. (afterwards Lord Newton) ; Agents, Mr. Robert Donaldson, and Mr. Alexander Paterson, Writers to the Signet.

For George Smith—John Clerk, Esq. (afterwards Lord Eldin) ; Robert Hamilton, Esq. ; Mr. Aeneas Morrison, agent.

The jurymen were—Robert Forrester, banker ; Robert Allan, banker ; Henry Jamieson, banker ; John Hay, banker ; William Creech, Bookseller ; George Kinnear, banker ; William Fettes (afterwards Sir William), merchant ; James Carfrae, merchant ; John Milne, founder ; Dunbar Pringle, tanner ; Thomas Campbell, merchant ; Francis Sharp, merchant ; James Donaldson, printer ; John Hutton, stationer ; Thomas Cleghorn, coachmaker.

Rev. Mr. Hall of the Burghers. When Mr. Brodie came to the scaffold, he bowed politely to the Magistrates and the people. He had on a full suit of black—his hair dressed and powdered. Smith was dressed in white linen, trimmed with black. Having spent some time in prayer with seeming fervency with the clergymen, Mr. Brodie than prayed a short time by himself.

"Having put on white nightcaps, Brodie pointed to Smith to ascend the steps that led to the drop ; and, in an easy manner, clapping him on the shoulder, said, 'George Smith, you are first in hand.' Upon this Smith, whose behaviour was highly penitent and resigned, slowly ascended the steps, and was immediately followed by Brodie, who mounted with briskness and agility, and examined the dreadful apparatus with attention, and particularly the halter designed for himself. The ropes being too short tied, Brodie stepped down to the platform, and entered into conversation with his friends. He then sprang up again, but the rope was still too short ; and he once more descended to the platform, showing some impatience. During this dreadful interval Smith remained on the drop with great composure and placidness. Brodie having ascended a third time, and the rope being at last properly adjusted, he deliberately untied his neckcloth, buttoned up his waistcoat and coat, and helped the executioner to fix the rope. He than took a friend (who stood close by him) by the hand, bade him farewell, and requested that he would acquaint the world that he was still the same, and that he died like a man. He then pulled the nightcap over his face, and placed himself in an attitude expressive of firmness and resolution. Smith, who, during all this time had been in fervent devotion, let fall a handkerchief as a signal, and a few minutes before three they were launched into eternity. Brodie on the scaffold neither confessed nor denied his being guilty. Smith, with great fervency, confessed in prayer his being guilty, and the justice of his sentence ; and showed in all his conduct the proper expressions of penitence, humility, and faith. This execution was conducted with more than usual solemnity ; and the great bell tolled during the ceremony, which had an awful and solemn effect. The crowd of spectators was immense."

In explanation of the wonderful degree of firmness, if not levity, displayed in the conduct of Brodie, a curious and somewhat ridiculous story became current. It was stated that he had been visited in prison by a French quack, of the name of Degravers,<sup>1</sup> who undertook to restore him to life after he had hung the usual time ; that, on the day previous to the execution, he had marked the temples and arms of Brodie with a pencil, in order the more readily to know where to apply the lancet ; and that, with this view, the hangman had been bargained with for a short fall. "The excess of caution, however," observes our worthy informant, who was himself a witness of the scene, exercised by the executioner in the first instance, in shortening the rope, proved fatal, by his inadvertency in making it latterly too long. After he was cut down," continues our friend, "his body was immediately given to two of his own workmen, who,

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Peter Degravers, according to his own account, was at one time Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the Royal Academy of Science at Paris, and a member of several medical societies. Whatever may have been his circumstances in France, Kay says it is certain his finances were at a very low ebb when he came to Edinburgh, where, in order to get into immediate practice, he advertised his advice in all cases at the low rate of half-a-crown. After having been some time in Edinburgh, he succeeded in securing the affections of Miss Baikie, sister to Robert Baikie, Esq. of Tankerness, M.P., whom he married, and with her was to receive seven hundred pounds of portion. Some delay, however, occurred in the settlement ; and, unfortunately for the Doctor, before he had obtained more than an elegantly furnished house, his lady died in childbed, when the money was retained by her friends as a provision for the child, which was a daughter. Not long after this event the Doctor decamped, no one knew whither, leaving debts to a considerable amount unsettled. In 1788 Degravers published a "Treatise on the Diseases of the Eye and Ear," to which an etching of the author, by Kay, was prefixed, as well as two anatomical prints by the same artist. These plates are not to be found in Kay's collection, having, we understand, been paid for and carried away by Degravers. Like the productions of most other quacks, his treatise was full of invective against the gentlemen of the faculty.

by order of the guard, placed it in a cart, and drove at a furious rate round the back of the castle." The object of this order was probably an idea that the jolting motion of the cart might be the means of resuscitation, as had once actually happened in the case of the celebrated "half-hangit Maggie Dickson."<sup>1</sup> The body was afterwards conveyed to one of Brodie's own workshops in the Lawnmarket, where Degravers was in attendance. He attempted bleeding, etc., but all would not do; Brodie "was fairly gone."

Before closing our memoir of Deacon Brodie, it may not be uninteresting to give one or two extracts from those letters which proved the means of his discovery. In one addressed to his relative, Mr. Sheriff, he says,—"My stock is seven guineas, but by the time I reach Ostend it will be reduced to six. My wardrobe is all on my back, excepting two check shirts and two white ones. My coat out at the arms and elbows." In another addressed to Henderson, dated April 10, he writes—"I arrived in London on the 13th March, where I remained until the 23d, snug and safe in the house of an old female friend, within five hundred yards of Bow Street. I did not keep the house all this time, but so altered, excepting the scar under my eye, I think you could not have *rapt* (swore) to me. I saw Mr. Williamson twice; but although countrymen usually shake hands when they meet from home, yet I did not choose to make so free with him, notwithstanding *he brought a letter to me*. My female gave me great uneasiness by introducing a flash man to me, but she assured me he was a true man; and he proved himself so, notwithstanding the great reward, and was useful to me. I saw my picture (his description in the newspapers) six hours before, exhibited to public view; and my intelligence of what was doing at Bow Street Office was as good as ever I had in Edinburgh. I make no doubt but that designing villain Brown is in high favour with Mr. Cockburn (the Sheriff), for I can see some strokes of his pencil in my portrait. Write me how the main went<sup>2</sup>—how you came on in it—if my black cock fought and gained," etc. Here we have the mind of Brodie strongly imbued with his ruling passion for gambling. Immediately the recollection of his unhappy situation conjures up matter of serious reflection. He feelingly alludes to his children—"They will miss me more," says he, "than any other in Scotland. May God in His infinite goodness stir up some friendly aid for their support, for it is not in my power at present to give them any assistance. Yet I think they will not absolutely starve in a Christian land, where their father once had friends, and who was always liberal to the distressed." He then states his intention of proceeding to some part of North America, probably to Philadelphia or New York, and desires that his working tools might be purchased for him, and forwarded to either of these places, adding, that although it is hard to begin labour at my

<sup>1</sup> This woman had been executed for child-murder, and her body delivered to her relatives for interment, who put it in a cart to transport it a few miles out of town. Strange to say, half the journey was not accomplished, when, to the consternation of those present, the poor woman revived. She lived afterwards several years, and bore two children to her husband.

<sup>2</sup> He was passionately fond of cock-fighting.

years, yet I hope, by industry and attention, to gain a livelihood. He was anxious to know what became of Brown, Smith, and Ainslie. And, in allusion to them, says—"I shall ever repent keeping such company ; and whatever they may allege, I had no direct concern in any of their depredations, except the last fatal one, by which I lost ten pounds in cash ; but I doubt not all will be laid to my charge, and some I never heard of."

## No. CVI.

## GEORGE SMITH AND DEACON WILLIAM BRODIE.

THIS Print is illustrative of the supposed first meeting of Deacon Brodie and his accomplice George Smith. In this sketch the pencil of Kay is displayed with great felicity, both as regards the attitude and expression of the characters ; and, in the introduction to Creech's edition of the trial, we are assured that the likenesses were "reckoned most exact."

GEORGE SMITH was a native of Berkshire, in England. He and his wife were hawkers, and travelled the country with a horse and cart. He came to Scotland about the middle of the year 1786 ; and, on arriving in Edinburgh, put up at Michael Henderson's, a house at that period much frequented by the lower order of travellers. In consequence of bad health, he was under the necessity of parting with all his goods, and, latterly, with his horse, in order to support himself and his wife. While thus confined in Henderson's, the "first interview" took place, on which occasion Brodie suggested the possibility of "something being done to advantage, provided a due degree of caution were exercised." There is every reason to suppose that the *doing of something* was nothing new to Smith, who appears to have embraced very cordially and readily the propositions of Brodie. He soon became a visitor of the gambling-house of Clark, at the head of the Fleshmarket Close, where he formed acquaintance with Ainslie and Brown.

In his declarations Smith confessed to the robbery of the College—of Tapp's dwelling-house—of a shop in Leith—and also of the shop of Inglis and Horner.<sup>1</sup> He also disclosed the extensive robbery committed on the shop of John and Andrew Bruce. In describing this affair we will quote in part the language of the declaration, which is graphically illustrative of the career of Brodie, who had actually been a participator in almost all the forementioned depredations :—

"That Brodie told the declarant that the shop at the head of Bridge Street, belonging to Messrs. Bruce, would be a very proper shop for breaking into, as it contained valuable goods ; and he knew the lock would be easily opened, as

<sup>1</sup> The latter individual was father of Francis Horner, Esq., M.P., and Mr. Leonard Horner, sometime Warden of London University.



K. & J. 1786

The First Interview in 1786



it was a plain lock, his men having lately altered that shop door, at the lowering of the street: that the plan of breaking into the shop was accordingly concerted betwixt them; and they agreed to meet on the evening of the 24th of December 1786, being a Saturday, at the house of James Clark, vintner, where they generally met with company to gamble: that, having met there, they played at the game of hazard till the declarant lost all his money; but at this time Brodie was in luck, and gaining money: that the declarant often asked Brodie to go with him on their own business; but Brodie, as he was gaining money, declined going, and desired the declarant to stay a little and he would go with him." Smith, however, becoming impatient, as it was near four in the morning, went himself to the Messrs. Bruce's shop, from which he took a number of watches, and a variety of jewellery articles, amounting in all to the value of £350. Brodie called upon Smith next day, when the latter told him that he could not expect a full share, "but that there were the goods, and he might choose for himself." Brodie accordingly took a gold seal, a gold watch-key set with garnet stones, and two gold rings. As the safest method, it was agreed that Smith should go to England and dispose of the goods—Brodie giving him five guineas and a half to defray his expenses. The goods were accordingly sold in Chesterfield to one John Tasker, *alias* Murray, who had been previously banished from Scotland. Smith repaid the money advanced by Brodie, besides giving him three ten-pound notes more to keep for him, in case of suspicion, which he afterwards got in sums as he wanted it.

While in prison, a desperate attempt to escape was made by Smith and Ainslie—the latter of whom occupied a room on the highest floor. It occurred in the night between the 4th and 5th of May, by converting the iron handle of the jack (or bucket) into a pick-lock, and one of the iron hoops into a saw. Smith took one door off the hinges, and opened the other which led to Ainslie's apartment. Both prisoners setting then to work, they cut a hole in the ceiling, together with another in the roof of the prison, and had prepared about sixteen fathoms of rope, manufactured out of the sheets of their beds. The falling of the slates on the street, however, attracted the notice of the sentinel, who, giving the alarm, they were immediately secured. After this failure, Smith seems to have given up all hope. He at one time intended to plead guilty, and prepared a speech in writing for the purpose; but was afterwards prevailed upon to take his chance of a trial. He also, with his own hand, drew up a list of robberies—some of them of great magnitude—intended for future commission.

During Smith's stay in Edinburgh, he kept a kind of grocery shop in the Cowgate; and he affirmed that his wife knew nothing of his criminal mode of life. Her evidence was not taken in Court.

Of the history of the other accomplices nothing seems to have been known, even by their companions. In the list of witnesses the designation of the one is John Brown, *alias* Humphry Moore, sometime residing in Edinburgh; of the other, Andrew Ainslie, sometime shoemaker in Edinburgh.

No. CVII.

### GENERAL BUTTONS,

AN AMERICAN OFFICER.

OF this hero of the "War of Independence," nothing farther is known than the fact that such a person did actually serve in the American army. "The drawing," says Kay, in his MS., "from which this Print is taken, was done by Colonel Campbell, while confined in prison in America, after the treaty of Saratoga. Through a small hole—the only aperture for light in his dungeon—the Colonel had frequent opportunities of seeing General Buttons; and, notwithstanding the gloomy nature of his situation, he could not resist the impulse of taking a sketch of such a remarkable military figure." This sketch he sent home for the amusement of his friends, by whom it was communicated to the artist, for the purpose of more extended circulation.

Whether this excellent counterpart of the "Knight of the Rueful Countenance" be a faithful representation of "Provincial General Buttons," or heightened in its unique grotesque appearance by the fancy of the caricaturist, is a matter of no great moment. The circumstances under which it was pencilled—the state of political feeling in this country at the period—and the *penchant* which even yet exists for enjoying a little wit at the expense of brother Jonathan, were sufficient to stamp a value on the production, independent of its own intrinsic claims to merit.

Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell was taken prisoner by the Americans in 1776. It appears that, unapprised of the evacuation of Boston by the British troops, he had attempted, in compliance with his orders, to make a landing at that port. His small force consisted of two transports, the *George* and *Annabella*, with two companies of the 71st Regiment. On reaching the mouth of the harbour, they were attacked by four American privateers, which, with very unequal means, they repulsed; and, under the fire of an American battery, bore right into the harbour, where, one of the vessels running aground, Colonel Campbell was under the necessity of coming to anchor with the other. Here he soon discovered the perilous nature of the situation in which he was placed. The four schooners with whom he had formerly been engaged, being joined by an armed brig, immediately surrounded him, took their stations within two hundred yards, and hailed him to strike the British flag. "Although," says Captain Campbell, "the mate of our ship, and every sailor on board, the Captain only excepted, refused positively to fight any longer, there was not an officer, non-commissioned officer, nor private man of the 71st, but what stood to their quarters, with a ready and cheerful obedience. On our refusing to strike the British flag, the action was renewed with a good deal of warmth on both sides; and it was our



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*PROVINCIAL GENERAL BUTTONS marching to SARATOGA with plunder*



misfortune, after a sharp combat of an hour and a half, to have expended every shot that we had of our artillery. Under such circumstances we were of course compelled to surrender."

According to his own account, Colonel Campbell at first experienced most honourable and humane treatment from the authorities at Boston. A sudden change, however, followed. In a letter addressed to General Howe, and forwarded to him through the hands of the Council at Boston, Colonel Campbell thus describes his situation :—

*Concord Gaol, February 14, 1777.*

\* \* \* \* \*

" I am lodged in a dungeon of twelve or thirteen feet square, whose sides are black with the grease and litter of successive criminals. Two doors, with double locks and bolts, shut me up from the yard, with an express prohibition to enter it, either for my health or the necessary calls of nature.

" Two small windows, strongly grated with iron, introduce a gloomy light to the apartment, and these are at this hour without a single pane of glass, although the season, for frost and snow, is actually in the extreme. In the corner of the cell, boxed up with the partition, stands a \* \* \* which does not seem to have been cleared since its first appropriation to this convenience of malefactors. A loathsome black-hole, decorated with a pair of fixed chains, is granted me for my inner apartment, from whence a felon was but the moment before removed, to make way for your humble servant, and in which his litter to this hour remains. The attendance of a single servant on my person is also denied me, and every visit from a friend positively refused."

\* \* \* \* \*

It was in this loathsome dwelling that Colonel Campbell pencilled the sketch of "General Buttons Marching to Saratoga with Plunder." During the Colonel's confinement, a variety of events had occurred unfavourable to the British interest,—among others, the surrender of General Burgoyne and his small army, at the heights of Saratoga, on the 17th October 1777. General Buttons is accordingly represented on his march from the "field of spoil;" and, it must be granted, he has contrived to make the most of his limited means of conveyance.

The cruel treatment of Colonel Campbell and other British officers by the Americans originated in the law of retaliation, which they considered themselves warranted in adopting by the conduct of the British towards Colonel Ethen Allan and General Lee, in treating them not as prisoners of war but as criminals. As soon as the Congress was informed of the capture of General Lee, they offered six field-officers—of whom Colonel Campbell was one—in exchange. This the British General (Howe) refused. It was contended in vindication of the British, however, that even waiving the peculiar relation in which the prisoners stood, as having violated their allegiance, they had proper attendants, and were comfortably lodged.

The imprisonment of Colonel Campbell continued till the exchange of prisoners was effected in the month of February following—the capture of General Burgoyne having led to a speedy and amicable arrangement.

No. CVIII.

MR. JOHN WRIGHT,

LECTURER ON LAW.

MR. WRIGHT was the son of a poor cottar in Argyleshire,<sup>1</sup> who, by smuggling between that coast and the Isle of Man, was enabled to maintain his family for many years in comparative comfort; but, finding his “occupation gone,” in consequence of the strict prohibitory measures enforced by Government, a short time prior to the transfer of the sovereignty of that island in 1765, he left the Highlands and settled in Greenock. Here the future “lecturer on law,” who had been bred to the humble occupation of a shoemaker, manifested an uncommon desire for knowledge. Whilst employed at his laborious avocation, his mind was generally engaged in study. It is told of him, that to aid his memory in acquiring a knowledge of the Latin language, and not having the command of writing materials, he used to conjugate the verbs on the wall of his work-room with the point of his awl.

Having mastered the rudiments of the Latin tongue, he removed to Glasgow, where, with no other assistance than the proceeds of his labour, he entered a student at the University; and, notwithstanding the manifest disadvantages under which he laboured, made rapid progress in his studies. Indeed, so decided was his success that he soon found himself almost wholly relieved from the drudgery of shoemaking, by giving private lessons to his less assiduous class-fellows—many of whom, being the sons of noblemen and wealthy commoners, remunerated him liberally for his instructions. The views of our scholastic aspirant being directed towards the Church, he was in due course of time licensed to preach; but finding himself destitute of patronage—and perhaps aware, from a deficiency in oratorical powers, that he might never become popular in the pulpit—he yielded to the advice of several of the professors, whose friendship his talents had secured, and set about attaining a more thorough knowledge of the higher branches of mathematics, which at that period were not considered so essential as they now are to the student of divinity.

After having attained, if not the reality, but what was in his case much better, the reputation of knowledge in this new study, Mr. Wright removed to Edinburgh, where he commenced teaching mathematics and the science of military architecture. This proved a very lucrative speculation, a great number of young men about Edinburgh being at the time preparing to go out to India.

With the view of ultimately pushing himself forward to the bar, Mr. Wright

<sup>1</sup> In the minutes of the Faculty of Advocates, Mr. Wright is described—“eldest son of the deceased Mr. John Wright, of the parish of Kilfinnan, in Argyleshire.”



R. West. 1791



now directed his attention to the Roman law ; and, after a short time spent in preparatory study, commenced giving lectures on the subject. He subsequently gave lectures on Scots law. Both sets of lectures were well attended.

In 1781, having qualified himself in the usual manner, he applied to be admitted a member of the Faculty of Advocates. The following information as to the opposition offered by the Faculty to his entry, is recorded in the minutes of the 8th December 1781 :—

“ The vice-dean (John Swinton, afterwards Lord Swinton) informed the Faculty that Mr. John Wright, who for many years had exercised the profession of a private teacher of the civil and municipal law and mathematics, had called upon him, and acquainted him that he had presented a petition to the Court of Session, praying a remit to the Dean and Faculty of Advocates to take him on his trial. Upon this Mr. Swinton observed that he wished this step postponed—a proposition which was assented to by Mr. Wright—till he had had an opportunity of mentioning the intention to the Faculty. He added—‘ that, so far as ever he could learn, Mr. Wright bore a fair and irreproachable character, and he did not mean the slightest reflection against him ; but that the circumstances which appeared peculiar in his case were, that, at his advanced time of life, it might be presumed he did not mean to take himself entirely to the profession and practice of the law, but only wished to add the character of advocate to his present employment.’

“ The Hon. Henry Erskine acquainted the Faculty that Mr. Wright had conversed with him upon this subject, and had authorised him to assure the Faculty that, in case of his being admitted advocate, he truly intended to follow the profession of the bar, and to lay aside private teaching of mathematics, or any other science, except law ; and even to confine that teaching to private lectures to such as chose to attend them in his own house.”

A considerable difference of opinion appears to have been entertained, but the good sense of the majority ultimately settled that the Faculty should not interfere ; and Mr. Wright was admitted an advocate upon the 25th January 1783.

It has been said that the real cause of the opposition of Mr. Swinton<sup>1</sup> and his party originated in their objections to Mr. Wright’s humble birth ; and that the Hon. Henry Erskine bantered them so much, that they at last gave way. After listening to the observations of the opposition—“ Well, well,” said Mr. Erskine, “ they say I am the *son* of the *Earl of Buchan*—and you (pointing to —) are the *son* of the *Laird of —*;” and thus going over the whole *opposition* in a strain of inimitable and biting sarcasm, he wound up the enumeration in his usual forcible manner—“ Therefore, no thanks to us for being here ; because the learning we have got has been hammered into our brains !—whereas all Mr. Wright’s has been acquired by himself ; therefore he has more merit than us all. However, if any of you can put a question to Mr. Wright that he cannot answer, I will hold that to be a good objection. But, otherwise,

<sup>1</sup> The Swintons of Swinton are a Berwickshire family of great antiquity.

it would be disgraceful to our character as Scotsmen were such an act of exclusion recorded in the books of this society. Were he the son of a beggar—did his talents entitle him—he has a right to the highest distinction in the land.”<sup>1</sup>

## No. CIX.

## JOHN WRIGHT, ESQ.,

## ADVOCATE.

THIS Print represents the subject of our sketch at a later period of life than the former etching ; and, to judge from his attitude, he may be supposed in the act of addressing the bench.

MR. WRIGHT never attained to great eminence as a pleader. He spoke so very slow that his pleadings were far from being effective. On one occasion he was engaged in conducting a case before Lord Hailes. Mr. —, the opposing council, who first addressed the bench, spoke so thick, fast, and indistinct, that his lordship was under the necessity of requesting him to speak slower, that he might understand him ; but the judge found himself in the adverse predicament with Mr. Wright. “Get on a little faster,” said his lordship, addressing the advocate, “for I am tired following you.” “If it were possible,” observed Erskine, *sotto voce*, “to card the two together, something good might be made of them both.”

Mr. Wright was unquestionably more fitted for a lecturer than an advocate, and to his success in the former avocation he was chiefly indebted for a livelihood. He also derived no inconsiderable income from his literary labours. For many years he wrote all the Latin theses. One work on mathematics<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> That the political principles of Mr. Wright were liberal may be inferred from his intimacy with, and the friendship shown him by, Mr. Erskine ; but it may not be generally known that he ever published his sentiments on the subject of Reform. We have, however, accidentally fallen in with a pamphlet which seems to have been published by Mr. Wright in 1784, entitled “An Essay on Parliamentary Representation and the Magistracies of our Royal Boroughs ; showing that the abuses at present complained of, respecting both, are late deviations from our constitution, as well as from common sense ; and the necessity of a speedy Reform.” This pamphlet is anonymous ; but from the following words, in the handwriting of Mr. Wright, being written on the title-page, there can be no doubt that the production was his own :—“This Essay contains the substance of the Author’s ideas on Parliamentary Representation. Mr. Alison’s opinion of it would oblige his humble servant—JOHN WRIGHT.” The Essay is well written, and affords a luminous review of the rise and progress of feudal government, and the various laws and enactments which have led to the formation of what is called the British constitution. His observations extend to almost every branch of national economy. [The Mr. Alison alluded to was probably an accountant of that name who lived in St. James’ Square.]

<sup>2</sup> “Elements of Trigonometry, Plane and Spherical ; with the Principles of Perspective and Projection of the Sphere.” In 8vo, Edinburgh, 1772.



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brought him a very considerable sum. This he entered in Stationers' Hall ; but as the law then only secured copyrights for seven years, at the end of that period he had the mortification to find his treatise inserted in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, without permission sought or obtained. Mr. Wright was so much offended at this appropriation of his property, that he seriously contemplated bringing the case before the Court of Session ; but he was dissuaded from this step by his friend Mr. Erskine, who, in his usual strain of pleasantry, told him " just to wait the expiry of other seven years, and then to retaliate, by printing the whole of the *Encyclopædia* along with his own work ! "

A short time prior to his demise Mr. Wright became so much reduced in his circumstances as to be compelled to apply for relief to the Faculty of Advocates, from whom he obtained an annuity of £50 per annum. He died in 1813.<sup>1</sup> He resided, about the year 1787, in Gavinloch's Land ; and subsequently removed to the New Assembly Close, also called the Commercial Bank Close. His lecture-room was at the head of the Old Assembly Close.

#### NO. CX.

### THE REV. WILLIAM BEAT,

MINISTER OF KILRENNY.

THIS likeness of the Reverend Gentleman was taken from a drawing executed by himself, and communicated to the artist by Mr. Douglas, one of his friends.

MR. BEAT was long pastor of the parish of Kilrenny, in the county of Fife, and died at the Manse there on the 21st December 1797, in the eighty-seventh year of his age, and fifty-second of his ministry. A funeral sermon was preached at Kilrenny the Sabbath following by the Rev. Dr. Hill, principal of St. Mary's College. The Principal described him to have been most exemplary in his conduct, and an effective preacher. "The excellence of his matter, the strength of his nervous, pointed expression, the bold painting of character in which he abounded, the richness and variety of his fancy, chastised by a thorough acquaintance with theology, rendered him a very impressive preacher." He was beloved by his parishioners, amongst whom he zealously discharged the duties of pastoral superintendence, and exercised a fatherly authority, which could alone spring from the deep interest he took in their welfare.

<sup>1</sup> The late Sheriff Anstruther met Henry Erskine the day after Wright's demise—" Well, Harry, poor Johny Wright is dead." " Is he !" answered Henry. " He died very poor. They say he has left no effects." " That is not surprising," was the rejoinder ; " as he had no *causes*, he could have no *effects*."

His widow, as “the most respectful tribute” she could pay to his memory, published a volume of his sermons in 1799. The volume contains twelve sermons—some of them on very interesting subjects—and all display comprehensiveness of idea, distinguished by considerable force and clearness of expression.

## No. CXI.

## JAMES MARSHALL, ESQ.,

## WRITER TO THE SIGNET.

THIS is a striking etching of a somewhat eccentric yet active man of business—one of the few specimens of the old school who survived the close of last century. The smart gait—the quick eye—aquiline nose—compressed lips—the silver spectacles, carelessly thrown upwards—the cocked hat firmly crowning the old black wig—and the robust appearance of the whole figure, at once bespeak the strong nerve and decisive character of the original.

Almost every sexagenarian in Edinburgh must recollect JAMES MARSHALL, Writer to the Signet. He was a native of Strathaven, in Lanarkshire, and made his debut upon the stage of life in the year 1731. From his having become a Writer to the Signet at a period when that society was more select than it is at present, we may fairly presume that his parents were respectable, and possessed of at least some portion of the good things of this world.

Mr. Marshall was both an arduous and acute man of business ; but he possessed one *accomplishment* that might have been dispensed with, for he was one of the most profound swearers of his day ; so much so, that few could possibly compete with him. Every sentence he uttered had its characteristic oath ; and, if there was any degree of wit at all in the numerous jokes which his exuberance of animal spirits suggested, it certainly lay in the peculiar magniloquent manner in which he displayed his “flowers of eloquence.” As true chroniclers, however, we must not omit recording a circumstance which, notwithstanding this most reprehensible habit, does considerable credit to the heart of the *heathen* lawyer. One day the poor washerwoman whom he employed appeared at his office in Milne’s Square with her head attired in a mourning coif, and her countenance unusually rueful. “What—what is the matter, Janet ?” said the writer, in his usual quick manner. Janet replied, in faltering accents, that she had lost her *gudeman*. “Lost your man !” said Marshall ; at the same time throwing up his spectacles, as if to understand the matter more thoroughly, “How the d—— did that happen ?” Janet then stated the melancholy occurrence by which she had been bereaved. It seems that at that time extensive buildings were going on about the head of Leith Walk ; and, from



I MAY 1793



the nature of the ground, the foundations of many of them were exceedingly deep. Janet's husband had fallen in the dark into one of the excavations—which had been either imperfectly railed in, or left unguarded—and from the injuries sustained, he died almost immediately. Marshall patiently listened to the tale, rendered doubly long by the agitated feelings of the narrator ; and, as the last syllable faltered on her tongue, out burst the usual exclamation, but with more than wonted emphasis—“The b——s, I'll make them pay for your gudeman !”

No sooner said than done : away he hurried to the scene of the accident—inspected the state of the excavation—and having satisfied himself as to all the circumstances of the case and the liability of the contractors, he instantly wrote to them, demanding two hundred pounds as an indemnity to the bereaved widow. No attention having been paid to his letter, he immediately raised an action before the Supreme Court, concluding for heavy damages ; and, from the active and determined manner in which he went about it, soon convinced his opponents that he was in earnest. The defenders became alarmed at the consequences, and were induced to wait upon Mr. Marshall with the view of compounding the matter, by paying the original demand of two hundred pounds. “Na, na, ye b——s!” was the lawyer's reply ; “that sum would have been taken had ye come forward at first, like gentlemen, and settled wi' the puir body ; but now (adding another oath) three times the sum 'll no stop the proceedings.” Finding Marshall inexorable, another, and yet another hundred was offered—not even five hundred would satisfy the lawyer. Ultimately the parties were glad to accede to his own terms ; and it is said he obtained, in this way, upwards of *seven hundred pounds* as a solatium for the “lost gude-man”—all of which he handed over to his client, who was thus probably made more comfortable by the death of her husband than she had ever been during his life.

In the winter season Mr. Marshall resided in Milne's Square, but in summer he retired to Greenside House (his own property), situated in the Lover's Lane, near Leith Walk, where he kept a capital saddle-horse ; but for what purpose it was impossible to divine, no man having ever seen him on horseback (indeed it was generally supposed he could not ride), and he would allow no one else, not even the stable-boy, to mount the animal. From this it may be inferred that the horse was in high favour with its master. Well fed, and well attended to, the only danger likely to have occurred from this luxurious mode of life arose from the want of exercise. To obviate this, the discipline adopted was truly worthy of the eccentric lawyer. Almost daily he had the horse brought out to the field behind the house, where, letting him loose, he would whip him off at full gallop ; and then, to increase the animal's speed and ensure exercise enough, his dog (for he always kept a favourite dog) was usually despatched in pursuit. Thus would Marshall enjoy, with manifest pride and satisfaction, for nearly an hour at a time, the gambols of the two animals.

Having no near relatives to whom he cared bequeathing his property, Mr.

Marshall had selected, as the favoured individual, one of the judges of the Court of Session ; but an incident occurred about two years prior to his death, which entirely changed his views on the subject. In politics he had been, if any thing, an adherent of Henry Dundas, afterwards Lord Viscount Melville, and felt very deeply the injustice of the charges latterly preferred against that distinguished nobleman. While the impeachment against him was going on in London, Mr. Marshall, although then in his seventy-fourth year, daily repaired to the Parliament House, where the news of the day were generally discussed. The all-engrossing topic was of course “the impeachment ;” and the innocence or guilt of Melville decided upon according to the political bias of the disputants. Having one day paid his accustomed visit, old Marshall was astonished to find the sentiments of his intended heir decidedly adverse to the fallen minister. This appeared the more intolerable to Marshall, knowing, as he did, that this individual entirely owed his elevation to the very person whom he now vilified. “O the ungrateful scoundrel !” exclaimed the old man ; and working himself up into a towering passion, he strode up and down the floor of the court-house, cursing with more than usual vehemence—then grumbling through his teeth as he left the Court—“he shall never finger a farthing of my money”—he hurried directly home, ere his accumulated wrath should be expended, and committed the “will” to the flames.

Mr. Marshall died at Greenside House on the 23d May 1807, in the seventysixth year of his age. He married a Miss Janet Spens, who died in 1788.

#### No. CXII.

#### REV. JOHN WESLEY.

THE principal facts connected with this remarkable individual are pretty generally known through the elegant “Memoirs of his Life,” by Dr. Southey. A less attractive, but very valuable account of Wesley has subsequently appeared from the pen of the Rev. Richard Watson, himself an active and distinguished teacher of Methodism.

MR. WESLEY was the son of a clergyman of the English Church, and was born at Epworth—a market town in Lincolnshire, where his father was vicar—on the 17th of June 1703. His grandfather and great-grandfather were both ejected from their livings by the Act of Uniformity ; and died, the former in consequence of frequent imprisonment and severe privation ; the latter, from grief for the loss of his only son. John, along with his brother Charles (both being intended to enter into orders), was sent, at the age of seventeen, to Oxford, where he was entered a student of the College of Christ-Church. His attainments at this period were highly respectable, especially in classical literature.



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He had also, through the assistance of his elder brother Samuel, who was at this time an usher at Westminster, acquired some knowledge of Hebrew. At college he continued his labours with great diligence, and attracted notice by his proficiency in the studies usually prosecuted at Oxford, especially by his skill in logic. After some hesitation on his own part, and some opposition on that of his father, who, to use his own words, did not like "a callow clergyman," he was ordained by Bishop Potter, in the autumn of 1725. In the ensuing spring he was elected Fellow of Lincoln College—an event which gave great joy to his aged parent, who, in writing to him upon the occasion, says—"What will be my own fate before the summer be over, God knows: *sed passi graviora—* wherever I am, my Jack is Fellow of Lincoln." Eight months after his election to a fellowship he was appointed Greek lecturer and moderator of the classes—an office which he afterwards regarded as having been of singular benefit to him, by increasing his expertness in arguing and detecting fallacies.

Shortly after this he went to assist his father, and officiated as his curate at Wroote—the living of which the elder Wesley held along with that of Epworth. Here he continued two years, when he was again recalled to Oxford; and once more took up his abode at Lincoln College, became a tutor there, and presided as moderator at the disputations which were held six times a-week. During his absence, however, his brother Charles had associated himself with two or three of the undergraduates in the formation of a religious society, the object of which was the attainment of spiritual improvement, and the promotion of a more strict attention to divine ordinances, and to certain ascetic observances that had gained favour in their eyes. Of this society, which had in the meantime received the title of *Methodist*, in allusion to the ancient school of physicians of that name, John was, on his return, constituted the head and director; and, under his management, it became gradually more regular in its meetings, and more numerous in its adherents. In thus acting, the two brothers had the sanction of their father, who said that he would rather be called grandfather of the holy club of which John was the father, "than have the title of His Holiness."

A very different view, however, of their conduct was taken by the heads of the University; but as no steps of an active kind were resorted to against them, they continued to hold their meetings, and to carry on their schemes, in spite of all the ridicule with which they were assailed. This continued till the year 1735, when the two Wesleys, after the death of their father, left England for America, for the purpose of acting as chaplains to the new colony of Georgia, and as missionaries to the surrounding tribes of Indians. In the vessel which carried them out were a party of twenty-six Moravians, with whom, on their arrival in America, John took up his abode at Savannah, and from whose society and example he derived not only much good to his own mind, but also the great outlines of that ecclesiastical system which he afterwards lived to organise and establish.

His residence in America was brief. An excess of zeal, combined with a want of proper prudence, led to his being brought into angry conflict with the settlers; and in consequence of this he returned to England in 1737. For

several months he seems to have led a very unsettled life—moving from place to place, and occasionally preaching. At length, for the purpose of receiving instruction on some points of theology, regarding which his mind was ill at ease, he visited Herrnhut, the residence of the Moravians in Germany. After a short time he again returned to England ; and, having been joined by his former college companion, Whitfield, he commenced preaching in private houses, and ultimately in the fields and streets. This ancient, and sometimes useful mode of instructing the people, he from this time forward employed to the end of his life ; visiting on preaching excursions almost every part of the United Kingdom. Nor were such attempts at that time unaccompanied with danger. On several occasions, both he and his brother were severely handled by the tumultuous and ignorant mob. Nothing can more strikingly evince the extraordinary character of the man than the undaunted sincerity and unchanging resolution with which he maintained the course he had chosen, in spite of all the hardships, sufferings, and persecutions to which it exposed him.

In 1751, Mr. Wesley entered into the marriage relation with a Mrs. Vizelle, a widow of independent fortune. This union proved singularly unhappy. That Mrs. Wesley had some good properties appears indubitable ; but these were absorbed in a spirit of fierce and harrowing jealousy of her husband. To such an extent was this allowed to work upon her mind, that it must have bordered on insanity, as nothing short of madness can explain her conduct. “It is said that she frequently travelled a hundred miles for the purpose of watching from a window who was in the carriage with him when he entered a town. She searched his pockets, opened his letters, put his letters and papers into the hands of his enemies, in hopes that they might be made use of to blast his character, and sometimes laid violent hands upon him, and tore his hair.” After being the torment of his life for twenty years, she at length left him, carrying off part of his journals and papers. Of his feelings on this occasion, some idea may be formed from the brief but pithy comment upon it in his journal, where, after noticing the fact, he adds in Latin—*Non eam reliqui, non dimisi, non revocabo.* “I did not leave her—I did not dismiss her—I will not recall her.”

Mr. Wesley continued his laborious exertions to the very last. His last sermon was preached at Leatherhead, on Wednesday the 24th of February 1791. At that time he was suffering severely from an attack of cold, accompanied with fever, so that he preached with great difficulty. He continued growing weaker and more lethargic till the 2d of March, when, after uttering the exclamation—“Farewell!” he, without a lingering groan, entered into his rest. He died in the eighty-eighth year of his age, and sixty-fifth of his ministry—full of years, and full of honours.

Wesley visited Scotland several times ; but the success which had attended his labours in England did not follow him across the borders. In one of his journals he complains bitterly of the insensibility of the Scotch. “O ! what a difference between the living stones and the dead unfeeling multitudes of Scotland,” is one of his lamentations. The experience of his friend Whitfield,





however, might have taught him to form a different estimate. The fact is, Wesley's Arminianism and soft persuasive eloquence were ill-suited to the genius of a people stern, fervid, and passionate; and accustomed to regard the doctrines of Calvin as the only doctrines which could teach a man how to be saved.

## No. CXIII.

## SIR JAMES GRANT OF GRANT, BART.,

WITH A VIEW OF HIS REGIMENT, THE STRATHSPEY OR GRANT FENCIBLES.

AT a period when many of the extensive Highland proprietors, actuated by a violent frenzy for improvement, were driving whole districts of people from the abodes of their forefathers, and compelling them to seek for that shelter in a foreign land which was denied them in their own—when absenteeism, and the vices of courtly intrigue and fashionable dissipation, had sapped the morality of too many of our landholders, SIR JAMES GRANT escaped the contagion; and, during a long life, was distinguished for the possession of those virtues which are the surest bulwarks of the peace, happiness, and strength of a country. Possessed of extensive estates, and surrounded by a numerous tenantry, his exertions seemed to be equally devoted to the progressive improvement of the one, and the present comfort and enjoyment of the other.

Sir James was born in 1738, and succeeded to the family estates and title on the death of his father, Ludovic, in 1773. He represented the county of Moray in Parliament so early as 1761, and for several years afterwards. He was also sometime member for Banff; and, although he made no attempt to figure in the political arena, or to become an intriguing partisan of either party, his zeal for constitutional liberty, in the hour of danger, was neither less prompt nor less efficient than that of some blustering persons, misnamed patriots, who attempted to make their local influence the pedestal of future elevation.

On the declaration of war in 1793, Sir James was among the first, if not the very first, to step forward in the service of the country with a regiment of Fencibles, raised almost exclusively among his own tenantry, and with such alacrity, that in less than two months even more than the complement of men were assembled at Forres, the head-quarters of the regiment. Almost immediately after the Fencibles were embodied, Sir James raised another corps, called the 97th, or Strathspey Regiment, for more extended service, which consisted of eighteen hundred men. This regiment was embodied in 1794, and immediately marched into England. Of both these regiments Sir James was, of course, appointed Colonel. Next year, the 97th were drafted into other corps—the

two flank companies being incorporated with the 42d, then preparing for the West Indies.

The Fencibles continued embodied till 1799, and did duty in various parts of Scotland. While stationed at Linlithgow, proposals were made for extending the services of the regiment to England and Ireland ; but, from some misunderstanding on the subject among the men, they would not agree. This attempt on the part of the officers, who acted without duly consulting the soldiers in a matter which concerned them so materially, gave rise to much discontent and distrust in the ranks ; but confidence was soon restored by the presence of Sir James, who hurried to join the regiment as soon as he was aware of the circumstances.

In 1795 the Strathspey Fencibles were quartered at Dumfries, where a trifling affair happened, which, as it constitutes the only *warlike* affray that occurred in Scotland during the whole volunteer and fencible era, is perhaps worth recording. “On the evening of the 9th June, the civil magistrates of Dumfries applied to the commanding officer of the 1st Fencibles for a party to aid in apprehending some Irish tinkers, who were in a house about a mile and a half distant from the town. On the party’s approaching the house, and requiring admittance, the tinkers fired on them, and wounded Sergeant Beaton very severely in the head and groin ; John Grant, a grenadier, in both legs ; and one Fraser, of the light company, in the arm : the two last were very much hurt, the tinkers’ arms being loaded with rugged slugs and small bullets. The party pushed on to the house ; and, though they suffered so severely, abstained from bayoneting them when they called for mercy. One man, and two women in men’s clothes, were brought in prisoners. Two men, in the darkness of the night, made their escape ; but one of them was apprehended and brought in next morning, and a party went out, upon information, to apprehend the other. Fraser’s arm received the whole charge, which, it is believed, saved his heart. Beaton, it is expected, will soon recover.” So says the chronicle of this event. One of the soldiers, however, afterwards died of his wounds. The leader of the tinkers, named John O’Neill, was brought to Edinburgh for trial. He was a Roman Catholic ; and at that time a number of genteel catholic families being resident in Dumfries, they resolved to be at the expense of defending O’Neill, on the ground that he was justifiable in resisting any attempt to enter his own house. With this view, they prevailed on the late Mrs. Riddell of Woodley Park<sup>1</sup> to go to Edinburgh and procure counsel. She found no difficulty in obtaining the services of Henry Erskine, without fee or reward ; but, notwithstanding, O’Neill was found guilty and condemned to be hanged. The good offices of Mrs. Riddell, however, did not terminate here. She applied to Charles Fox ; and, through him, obtained a commutation of his sentence.

A still more unpleasant affair occurred in the regiment while at Dumfries only a few days after the encounter with the tinkers. One of the men being

<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Riddell was a great beauty, and a poetess of no inconsiderable note. She wrote a critique on the poems of Burns, and materially assisted Dr. Currie in writing the life of the poet.

confined for some trifling instance of improper conduct, an attempt was made by a few of his comrades to effect a rescue ; but they failed in the endeavour, and the ringleader was taken prisoner. A court-martial having been immediately held, the prisoners were remanded back to the guard-room ; but on the way the escort was attacked by fifty or sixty of the soldiers, with fixed bayonets, and the prisoners rescued. By great exertions on the part of the Lieut.-Colonel and officers, most of the parties were afterwards secured, when they expressed deep regret for their improper conduct, and peaceably submitted to their fate. Sir James was not with the regiment at this period, and arrived too late to interfere with propriety and effect. At a general court-martial, held at Musselburgh soon after, five of the mutineers were found guilty—four were adjudged to suffer death, and one to receive corporal punishment. The melancholy spectacle of the military execution took place in consequence at the Links of Gullane, on the 19th July 1795, in presence of all the regular and volunteer troops in the neighbourhood. When the prisoners had been marched to the scene, the sentence was restricted to two individuals, who suffered accordingly. The Strathspey Fencibles, along with most of the other similar regiments, was disbanded in 1799.

Sir James was one of the original office-bearers of the Highland Society of Edinburgh, instituted in 1784 ; and continued to be one of the most zealous members of that society. In 1794 he was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of the county of Inverness—which office he filled till he was compelled to resign, in consequence of ill health, in 1809, when his son was nominated his successor. In 1795 he was preferred as Cashier to the Excise, when his seat in Parliament became vacated, in consequence of which Mr. M'Dougal Grant succeeded him in the representation of Banffshire.

After a lingering illness, Sir James died at Castle Grant, on the 18th February 1811, deeply regretted. He married, in 1763, Jane, only child of Alexander Duff of Hatton, Esq., by whom he had seven sons and six daughters. The eldest, Lewis Alexander Grant, succeeded to the estates and earldom of Seafield on the death of his cousin, James Earl of Findlater<sup>1</sup> and Seafield, in 1811. The second son, Colonel Francis Grant, was some time member of Parliament for Nairn.

<sup>1</sup> The earldom of Findlater, which was destined to heirs male, was claimed by Sir William Ogilvie, Bart., but he failed to substantiate his right to it.

## No. CXIV.

## DR. ALEXANDER MONRO, SECUNDUS,

PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY.

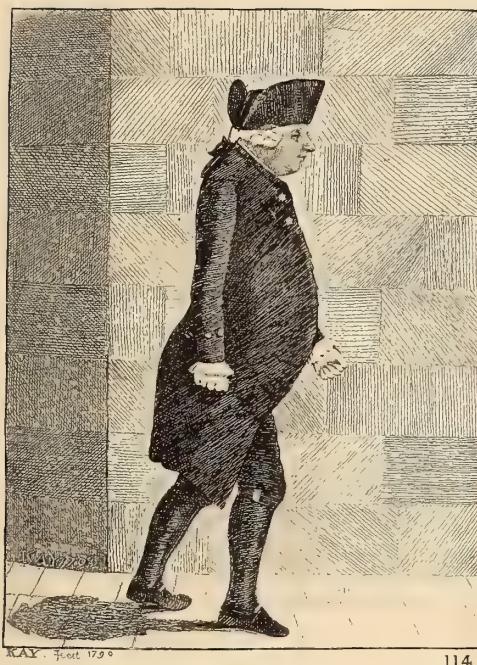
THE father of this celebrated anatomist was the first efficient professor of the science in the University of Edinburgh, and may be considered as the founder of the medical school which has been subsequently so justly famed.<sup>1</sup> He was a descendant of the Munros of Milntoun, and grandson of Sir Alexander Monro of Beerscroft—a strenuous opponent of Oliver Cromwell.

MONRO, *secundus*, was born in Edinburgh in 1732 ; and, although the youngest son, his father early designed that he should be his successor, and no exertion was spared to initiate him in the practice as well as the theory of his profession. That his whole time and attention might be devoted to the science, his father—presuming on the strength of thirty years' devotion to the medical chair, and emboldened by the fame which the seminary had acquired under his professorship—ventured to memorialise the Town Council on the subject of appointing his son assistant and successor. Among other motives which urged the professor to this step, it is stated in the memorial that the acquisition of so much knowledge of an extensive science as a teacher ought to have cannot be obtained without some neglect of the other branches ; and, therefore, a prospect of suitable advantage from that one branch must be given, to induce any person to bestow more time and pains on it than on others.

The memorial thus proceeds :—“That the professor's youngest son has appeared to his father, for some years past, to have the qualifications necessary for a teacher ; and this winter he has given proof, not only dissecting all the course of his father, but prelecting in most of it. That he is already equal to the office ; for testimony of which, it is entreated that inquiry may be made at the numerous students who were present at his lectures and demonstrations.” It was farther stated that, if “the patrons agreed to the proposition, the education of the young professor should be directed, with a view to that business, under the best masters in Europe. He should have all his father's papers, books, instruments, and preparations, with all the assistance his father can give in teaching, while he is fit for labour.”

This document throws great light upon the history of the young anatomist, and of the profitable manner in which he had spent his time. It contains also a plain but sensible statement of his father's sentiments concerning his proficiency.

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Monro, *primus*, was the author of a “System of Osteology” which has never been attempted to be rivalled.



KAY - Febt 1790



There were likewise produced to the patrons certificates from the different Professors of Latin and Greek, of Philosophy and Mathematics, and of the Professors of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, under whom he had studied; together with attestations from a great number of the students who had attended his demonstrations and lectures. Evidence was also produced that he was above twenty-one years of age. These papers were laid before the patrons in June 1754, and the prayer of the petition was granted.

Mr. Monro did not immediately repair to the Continent, but remained in Scotland for a year. The reason of this was probably a wish that he might graduate at the University of Edinburgh. This he accordingly did upon the 20th October 1755. He chose as the subject of his thesis "De Testibus et Semine in variis Animalibus." He could hardly have selected one more difficult to discuss. It is fully twice the size of ordinary theses, and is accompanied with plates, in order to explain the situation of the parts, their functions, and his reasoning concerning them. It is long since it became very scarce. Such as have examined it uniformly concur in opinion that it possesses great merit, and affords an excellent specimen of what was to be expected from him as a Professor of Anatomy.

When he went abroad, it was with the view principally of studying anatomy under the best masters in Europe. At Berlin he attended Professor Meckel's lectures, whose reputation as an anatomist stood very high. He now and then referred to him in his own lectures, and spoke of his old master in very high terms. He was for some time at Leyden; but whether he ever visited Paris we are not informed. Upon his return to Scotland, he was admitted a licentiate of the Edinburgh Royal College of Physicians on the 2d of May 1758, and elected a fellow on the 1st May 1759.

His character as a lecturer on anatomy stood very high during the long period that he discharged its duties. As an anatomist he was well known, not only throughout the British dominions and in America, but over the whole Continent of Europe; and he contributed most essentially to spread the fame of the University of Edinburgh as a medical school. He was not only a skilful anatomist, but an enthusiast in the study of it; and was constantly employed in exercising his mechanical genius in inventing and improving surgical instruments. Neither he nor his father read any of their lectures. His elocution was distinct—slow but somewhat formal—and he generally detained the students more than an hour at lecture. The following notice of his death occurs in the *Scots Magazine*:

"Oct. 2, [1817]. At Edinburgh, in the eighty-fifth year of his age, Alexander Monro of Craiglockhart, Esq., M.D., Professor of Medicine, Anatomy, and Surgery, in the University of Edinburgh. This distinguished physician was admitted joint Professor with his father, 12th July 1754; and, during more than half a century, shone as one of the brightest ornaments of that much and justly celebrated seminary; his elegant and scientific lectures attracting students from all quarters of the globe."

He was succeeded by his son, the *third* Dr. Alexander Monro in lineal succession. The three held the professorship successively for upwards of a hundred years.

The print of Dr. Monro was executed in 1790, and is said to be extremely faithful; indeed, the Professor considered it one of the best representations ever given of any individual.

No. CXV.

REV. JOHN KEMP, D.D.,

ONE OF THE MINISTERS OF THE TOLBOOTH CHURCH, EDINBURGH.

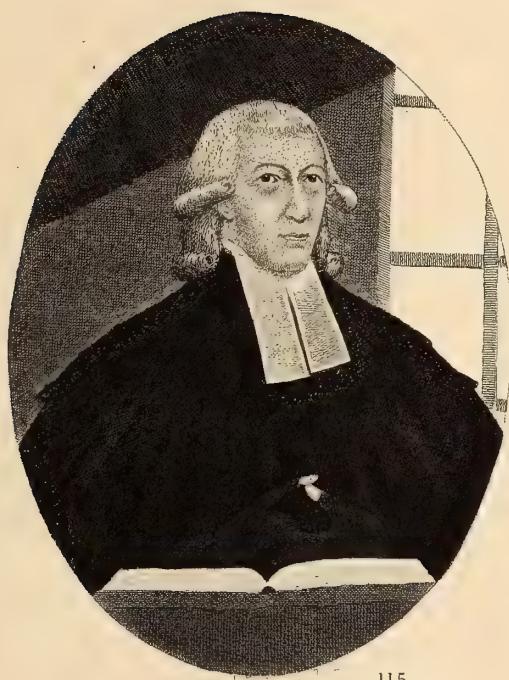
THE subject of this etching, born in 1745, was the son of the Rev. David Kemp, minister of Gask, in Perthshire, a man of piety and worth. By his father he was at an early period designed for the clerical profession, and passed through his academical studies at the University of St. Andrews with considerable credit. Having undergone the usual formula, and being licensed as a probationer by the presbytery of Auchterarder, he was, on the 4th April 1770, ordained minister of Trinity Gask—to which he was presented by the Earl of Kinnoull.<sup>1</sup>

In 1776, he was called by the Town Council to the New Greyfriars' Church of Edinburgh; and from thence translated, on the death of Mr. Plenderleith, in 1779, to the Tolbooth Church, where he became the colleague of Dr. Webster, and subsequently of Dr. Davidson.

DR. KEMP was a clergyman of acknowledged acquirements and ability, and was distinguished by an active business disposition. He was for a great many years Secretary to the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge—in which office he succeeded the Rev. Dr. John McFarlane. The duties of the secretaryship he discharged with great zeal and fidelity; and, by his intelligent and judicious management, tended materially to promote the highly useful and patriotic objects of the Society.

In his official capacity Dr. Kemp frequently visited the Highland districts of the country, to the improvement of which the missions of the Society were principally directed. In the summer of 1791, in particular, he undertook an extensive tour to the Highlands and Hebrides; and, that he might prosecute

<sup>1</sup> The Earl of Kinnoull was for some time president of the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge. He was an excellent man; and, on his death in 1787, Dr. Kemp did not fail to embrace the opportunity of rendering the homage due to the memory of his early patron. In an appendix to a sermon preached before the Society at their anniversary meeting in 1788, he published a well-drawn memoir of his lordship, by which the character of the deceased nobleman was placed in the most amiable light. The pamphlet was entitled “The Gospel adapted to the State and Circumstances of Man; a sermon, preached before the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge, at their anniversary meeting in the High Church of Edinburgh, June 5, 1788, by the Rev. John Kemp, one of the ministers of Edinburgh. To which are added facts, serving to illustrate the character of the late Right Hon. Thomas Earl of Kinnoull.” 1s. *Gray.*



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his journey with the greater facility, on application by the Society to the Board of Customs, the *Prince of Wales* brig, Captain John Campbell, was ordered to be in readiness at Oban for his use. In this vessel Dr. Kemp navigated with safety the dangerous creeks and sounds of the Western Isles—went round the point of Ardnamurchan, which stretches far into the western ocean, and is constantly beat by a turbulent sea—and visited all the islands of the Hebrides.

This extensive tour he accomplished in three months; and, on his return, presented a very excellent Report to the Society, not only as to the state of the schools and missions in general, but as to the cause of the destitution experienced in many of the districts, and the means by which it might be alleviated. The views entertained on the various topics embraced by the Report, and the remedial measures which it pressed on the attention of the Society, were at once liberal and enlightened, and displayed a thorough acquaintance with the capacities of the people and the resources of the country.

Dr. Kemp possessed very conciliatory and engaging manners. Wherever he went during his Highland tours he was exceedingly well received, and obtained the ready co-operation of all whose influence could possibly be of service. Even in those remote islands, where the Reformation had never penetrated, and where Roman Catholicism maintained undisputed sway, the Secretary had the singular address to procure the aid and friendship of the clergy of that persuasion. While visiting the peasantry, it was no uncommon thing for him to be accompanied by the priest of the district, whose influence was highly necessary in breaking down the common prejudice against sending their children to the schools of a Protestant association.

Dr. Kemp was three times married. First to a Miss Simpson, by whom he had a son and daughter; secondly, to Lady Mary Anne Carnegie (who died in 1798), daughter of the sixth Earl of Northesk; and, thirdly, to Lady Elizabeth Hope, daughter of John second Earl of Hopetoun.

His son (who was a manufacturer) married a daughter of Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, Sheriff-depute of Dumbartonshire—a connection which unhappily gave rise to proceedings of a rather singular nature.<sup>1</sup> Old Sir James, becoming jealous of his own lady and Dr. Kemp, actually raised an action of divorce against her, which, of course, equally affected the character of the Doctor; and, if successful, would have subjected him in heavy damages. While this novel case of litigation was pending in Court, death very suddenly stepped in to give it the quietus, by removing the two principal actors in the drama, within a few days of each other. The deaths of Sir James and the Doctor are thus recorded in the newspaper obituaries for 1805:—"April 18. At Weirbank House, near Melrose, of a stroke of palsy, aged sixty, the Rev. John Kemp, D.D.,

<sup>1</sup> In the "Town Eclogue," the author (a clergyman) speaking of this marriage and Dr. Kemp's alleged familiarity with Lady Colquhoun, says—

" To a weaver's arms consigns the high born Miss ;  
Then greets the mother with a holy kiss."

The remainder of the attack is so scurrilous that we refrain from inserting it.

one of the ministers of the Tolbooth Church, Edinburgh, and Secretary to the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge;<sup>1</sup>—and on the 23d, “At Edinburgh, Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, Bart., Sheriff-depute of Dumbartonshire.”

Dr. Kemp resided for several years in Ramsay Garden, Castle Hill. He subsequently occupied a house connected with the hall of the Society to which he was secretary (formerly Baron Maule’s residence), at the Netherbow, and afterwards used by the Messrs. Craig as a hat manufactory.

#### No. CXVI.

### THE MOST NOBLE THE MARQUIS OF GRAHAM,

AND

### THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF BUCHAN.

THIS Print refers to the close of the war in 1782, when the fear of invasion from the menacing attitude of the French nation created so much unnecessary alarm. At this period the above-mentioned noblemen zealously came forward to rouse the spirit of their countrymen. They are represented as they appeared in the “garb of old Gaul,” beating up for a volunteer body called the Caledonian Band.<sup>2</sup> Several meetings had been held, and a vast number of citizens’ names enrolled; the Marquis had also been elected colonel, and the Earl lieutenant-colonel, besides the appointment of a number of inferior officers; but before the commissions arrived from his Majesty, the preliminaries of peace had been signed. The Caledonian Band, like its prototype, the Edinburgh Defensive Band, was thereafter converted into a body of freemasons—of which the Earl of Buchan was made master, and afterwards the Hon. Archibald Fraser of Lovat, whose father was beheaded in 1746.

<sup>1</sup> Perhaps few local matters ever excited greater interest in Edinburgh than the probable issue of this unhappy law-suit. Dr. Kemp was characterised as a second Dr. Cantwell by one party, and as the most injured man breathing by the other. Even the reality of his death became matter of dispute; for it was affirmed and believed by not a few of his adversaries, that his demise was a fiction, got up for the purpose of stifling investigation; and it was positively asserted, that, more than a year afterwards, he had been seen in Holland in the very best health and spirits. That this rumour, however, was unfounded, may be presumed from the fact, which was well known, of his having been struck with palsy some time prior to his death. Therefore, admitting the fiction of his demise, and that he was seen in Holland in the *best health and spirits*, it falls to be shown by what means such a miraculous recovery had been effected. But the point is, we think, set at rest by direct testimony; for we are informed by a friend that the late Mr. Charles Watson, undertaker, father of Dr. Watson of Burntisland, who was one of Dr. Kemp’s elders, and a person whose word may be relied on, declared to him that he assisted in putting Dr. Kemp’s body into the coffin, and in screwing down the top of it.

<sup>2</sup> This corps was drilled by Mr. John Lamond, as adjutant, brother of the Dean of Guild of Edinburgh.





THE MARQUIS OF GRAHAM was born in 1755, and succeeded his father in 1790. He entered the House of Commons in 1781, as one of the members for Richmond, in Yorkshire, along with the Right Hon. Sir Lawrence Dundas, who was the other. He was subsequently one of the representatives of Bedwin, Wiltshire ; and, during the few years he remained in the Commons unconnected with the Government, he proved himself a useful and independent member—sometimes voting with, and sometimes against, the administration.

In 1784 the Marquis was appointed one of the Lords of the Treasury, then formed under the leadership of Pitt ; and throughout the arduous struggle which ensued he continued a warm supporter of the Crown.

In 1789, when the indisposition of George III. gave rise to the project of a regency, which was urged with so much zeal and impatience by the opposition, Burke was on one occasion so carried away by the violence of his feelings, that, in reference to his Majesty, he declared, “the Almighty had hurled him from his throne !” The Marquis, who was seated beside Pitt on the Treasury bench, shocked with the rudeness of such language, instantly started to his feet, and with great warmth, exclaimed—“No individual within these walls shall *dare* to assert that the king was hurled from his throne !” A scene of great confusion ensued. On the recovery of his Majesty, the Marquis was the mover of the address to the queen.

In “*Wraxhall's Memoirs of his own Times*”—an amusing, but somewhat prejudiced work—the following lively sketch of his lordship is given :—

“ Few individuals, however distinguished by birth, talents, parliamentary interest, or public services, have attained to more splendid employments, or have arrived at greater honours, than Lord Graham under the reign of George the Third. Besides enjoying the lucrative sinecure of Justice-General of Scotland for life, we have seen him occupy a place in the cabinet, while he was joint Postmaster-General, during Pitt's second ill-fated administration. At the hour that I am writing,<sup>1</sup> the Duke of Montrose, after having been many years decorated with the insignia of the Thistle, is invested with the Order of the Garter, in addition to the high post which he holds of Master of the Horse.

“ In his person he was elegant and pleasing, as far as those qualities depend on symmetry of external figure ; nor was he deficient in all the accomplishments befitting his illustrious descent. He possessed a ready elocution, sustained by all the confidence in himself necessary for addressing the House. Nor did he want ideas, while he confined himself to common sense, to argument, and to matters of fact. If, however, he possessed no distinguished talents, he displayed various qualities calculated to compensate for the want of great ability ; particularly the prudence, sagacity, and *attention to his own interests, so characteristic of the Caledonian people.*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> He was elected one of the Knights of the Order of the Garter in 1812, under the regency of the Prince of Wales.

<sup>2</sup> The same qualities were attributed to the late Lord Viscount Melville—although the small property he left behind him gave the lie to the insinuation.

"His celebrated ancestor, the Marquis of Montrose, scarcely exhibited more devotion to the cause of Charles I. in the field, than his descendant displayed for George the Third in the House of Commons. Nor did he want great energy, as well as activity of mind and body. During the progress of the French Revolution, when the fabric of our constitution was threatened by internal and external attacks, Lord Graham, then become Duke of Montrose, enrolled himself as a private soldier in the City Light Horse. During several successive years he did duty in that capacity, night and day, sacrificing to it his ease and his time ; thus holding out an example worthy of imitation to the British nobility."

His Grace died on December 30, 1836, being, strange to say, the third individual who had held the family honours since the accession of his grandfather to them in 1684, in the reign of Charles II.—a period of a hundred and fifty-three years. He was twice married, and left two sons and three daughters. He was succeeded by James (4th Duke), eldest son of the second marriage.

THE EARL OF BUCHAN was born in 1742, and succeeded to the title and estates of the family in 1767. His course of education being completed at the University of Glasgow, he soon after entered the army, in which he rose to the rank of lieutenant ; but, disliking the profession of arms, he did not continue long in the service. In 1766, he was appointed Secretary to the British Embassy in Spain ; but, on the death of his father the year following, he returned to his native land, resolved to prosecute pursuits more congenial to his strong literary bias.

The first instance of the Earl's activity was the formation of the Society of Scottish Antiquaries in 1780.<sup>1</sup> The want of such a Society had long been felt ; yet it is strange his lordship experienced illiberal opposition from parties, who

<sup>1</sup> In 1792, the first volume of their transactions was published ; and the following discourses by the Earl appear in it :—"Memoirs of the Life of Sir James Stuart Denham"—"Account of the Parish of Uphall"—"Account of the Island of Icolmkill"—and "A Life of Mr. James Short, optician." Besides various fugitive pieces, in prose and verse, he printed, in conjunction with Dr. Walter Minto, "An Account of the Life, Writings, and Inventions of Napier of Merchiston," 1787, 4to.

In addition to the other objects of this Society, it was resolved to establish a museum of natural history, for the better cultivation of that science, and of which museum Mr. Smellie was appointed curator. He was likewise permitted to deliver the projected course of lectures on the philosophy of natural history in the hall of the museum. The Society at the time having applied for a Royal Charter of incorporation, an unexpected opposition arose (already alluded to in our notice of Mr. Smellie) from Dr. Walker, Professor of Natural History in the University, and also from the Senatus Academicus as a body, who memorialised the Lord Advocate (Mr. Henry Dundas, afterwards Lord Viscount Melville) against the proposed grant of a charter, alleging that the Society would intercept the communication of many specimens and objects of natural history which would otherwise find their way to the College Museum, as well as documents tending to illustrate the history, antiquities, and laws of Scotland, which ought to be deposited in the Advocates' Library. They likewise noticed that the possession of a museum of natural history might induce the Society to institute a lectureship on that science, in opposition to the professorship in the University. The Faculty of Advocates and other public bodies also joined in this opposition ; but, after an elaborate reply on the part of the Antiquaries, the Lord Advocate signified his approval of their request ; and, on the very next day, the royal warrant passed the privy seal, in which his Majesty voluntarily declared himself Patron of the Society.

afterwards, with much inconsistency, established another, having similar objects in view, called the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Although engaged in literary and antiquarian research, the Earl of Buchan was far from being an indifferent spectator of passing events. He did not enter the political arena ; but when invasion threatened common ruin, he not only with his pen endeavoured to create union among his countrymen, but, buckling on his sword, essayed to rouse them by example.

The Earl, however, was no adherent of the powers that were ; and when the interference of the Court had completely set aside all semblance of freedom in the election of the Scottish peers, he stood forward in defence of his order ; and, although he long fought singly, he at last succeeded in asserting its independence.

The residence of Lord Buchan had for many years been in Edinburgh : but, in 1787, he retired on account of his health to Dryburgh Abbey—a property he acquired by purchase. Here he instituted an annual festive commemoration of the author of “*The Seasons*,” the first meeting of which was held at Ednam Hill, on the 22d September 1791—on which occasion he crowned a copy of the *first collected edition* of the *Seasons* with a wreath of bays. The following may be taken as a sample of the eulogium of the noble Lord on the occasion :—“And the immortal Prussian, standing like a herald in the procession of ages, to mark the beginning of that order of men who are to banish from the earth the delusions of priestcraft, and the monstrous prerogatives of despotic authority !” His lordship also took that opportunity of attacking the great English lexicographer, “by whose rude hands the memory of Thomson has been profanely touched.” Burns wrote his beautiful lines to the shade of the bard of Ednam for the occasion ; and only five years afterwards, at the usual anniversary in 1796, Lord Buchan had the melancholy pleasure of placing an urn of Parian marble beside the bust of Thomson, in memory of the bard of Ayrshire. The copy of the *Seasons* alluded to, enclosed in a beautifully ornamented case, and enriched with some original autographs of the Poet, was subsequently presented by his lordship to the University of Edinburgh.

The political sentiments of the Earl of Buchan were generally known ; but, in a work published in 1792, entitled “*Essays on the Lives and Writings of Fletcher of Saltoun, and the Poet Thomson, Biographical and Political*,” he embraced the opportunity of enforcing his favourite doctrines.

In the same year his lordship presented the President of the United States with an elegantly mounted snuff-box, made from the tree which sheltered Wallace. “This magnificent and truly characteristic present,” says a Philadelphia Journal, of January 2, “is from the Earl of Buchan, by the hands of Mr. Archibald Robertson, a Scots gentleman, and portrait painter, who arrived in America some months ago.” The box had been presented to Lord Buchan by the goldsmiths of Edinburgh in 1782, from whom he obtained leave to transfer it to “the only man in the world to whom he thought it justly due.” The box was made by Robert Hay, wright, afterwards in the Edinburgh Vendue.

In prompting this compliment to the American General, vanity had probably no inconsiderable influence ; for, perhaps, there never lived an individual who thought so much of himself, or one who, in what he said or did, had his own glorification more in view. Some amusing anecdotes respecting him have recently appeared in *Fraser's Magazine* ; and in the *Town Eclogue* the reverend author has thus satirised the foibles of the Earl :<sup>1</sup>—

“ His brain with ill-assorted fancies stor'd,  
Like shreds and patches on a tailor's board ;  
Women, and Whigs, and poetry, and pelf,  
And ev'ry corner stuff'd with mighty self—  
With scraps and puffs, and comments without end,  
On prince and patriot, parasite and friend ;  
Vaunting his worth—how all the great caress'd ;  
How Hamilton dined, and how the Duchess dress'd ;  
And Ariosto sang the BUCHAN crest.”

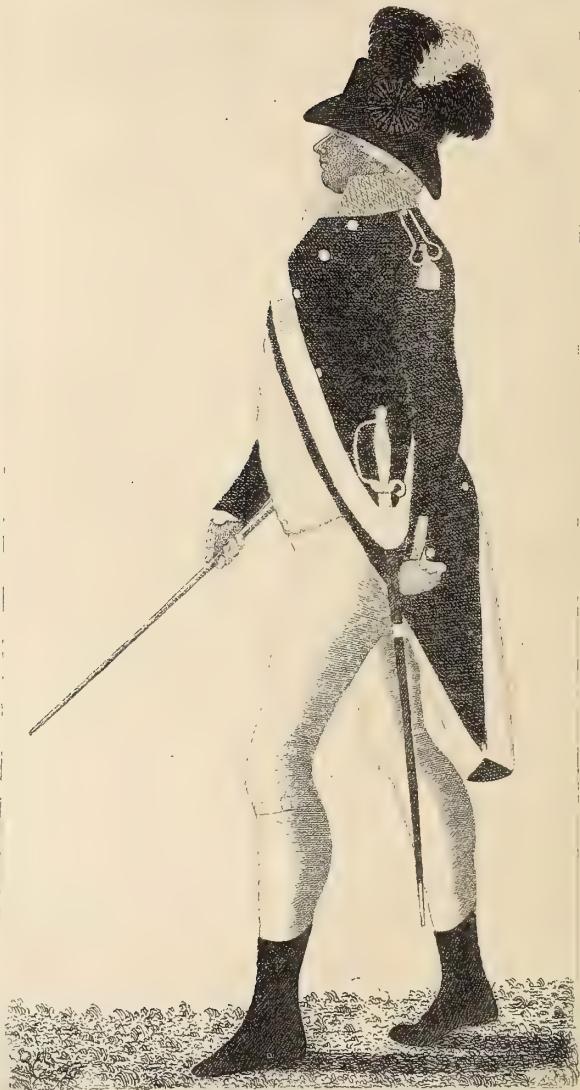
After all, vain as his lordship undoubtedly was, and mean as many of his actions may be characterised, still, as the Editor of the *Percy Letters* remarks, “he is entitled to more credit than is usually allowed him. By his laudable economy he retrieved the fortunes of the ancient family he represented—an example which it would not be unwise for many of our noblemen to follow ; he paid off every farthing of debt left by his predecessor—a step equally worthy of imitation ; he begrudged no labour which might advance the interests of science and literature, and he spared no pains to promote the success of those whom he deemed worthy of his patronage. With these merits, his personal vanity may be overlooked, and even his parsimony be forgiven, for we all know how difficult it is to eradicate early habits—habits, too, engendered at a period when these acquisitions were a merit rather than a demerit ; for, never let it be forgotten that, besides gradually paying off debts for which he was not legally responsible, he for years submitted to the severest privation, to enable him suitably to maintain and bring up his brothers, Henry and Thomas.”<sup>2</sup>

Lord Buchan contributed largely to the periodical works of his time—particularly to the “ Gentleman's Magazine,” the “ Scots Magazine,” and still more particularly to the “ Bee.” In 1812 he collected the stray productions, of which he published one volume at Edinburgh, entitled “ The Anonymous and Fugitive Pieces of the Earl of Buchan.” The preface announced the succession of other volumes, but no more ever appeared. To Grose's “ Antiquities of Scotland,” his lordship furnished the “ Description of Dryburgh.”

<sup>1</sup> Amongst other extraordinary exhibitions got up by his lordship, was a sort of assembly, upon Mount Parnassus, of Apollo and the nine Muses. The scene of action was his lordship's drawing-room, where he presided over the smoking tea-urn, crowned with a garland of bays—nine young ladies of the first rank in Edinburgh enacted the Muses. To complete the tableaux, the noble Lord thought that the presence of Cupid was indispensable ; and the astonishment of the Muses and the company present may be conceived, when the door opened, and a blooming boy of ten or twelve years of age entered as the god of love, with his bow and quiver—but *in puris naturalibus !*

<sup>2</sup> Letters from Bishop Percy to George Paton, &c.





Besides the voluminous correspondence which he almost constantly maintained with men of literature of all nations, and the incessant exertions into which his active mind betrayed him, the Earl was not insensible to the softer wooings of the Muses, to whom his leisure moments were sometimes devoted. Only a very few of these productions, however, have been given to the public ; but we have been informed that he excelled in a “light, elegant, extemporaneous style of poetry.”

The Earl of Buchan married, on the 15th October 1771, Margaret, eldest daughter of William Fraser, Esq. of Fraserfield, but had no issue. His lordship died in 1829,<sup>1</sup> and was succeeded by his nephew, Henry David, eldest son of his brother, the Hon. Henry Erskine.

No. CXVII.

HENRY DUNDAS, VISCOUNT MELVILLE,

IN THE UNIFORM OF THE ROYAL EDINBURGH VOLUNTEERS.

As we have previously mentioned, MR. SECRETARY DUNDAS became a member of the “Royal Edinburgh Volunteers” on the 6th July 1795. He was immediately requested to accept the station of Captain-Lieutenant—an honour which he declined. In his letter of reply, addressed to Lord Provost Stirling, after acknowledging in handsome terms the mark of respect paid to him, he says—“I shall always recollect the proposition with the sentiments I ought. But it is my sincere conviction that the precedent of filling any commission with the name of a person whose other avocations may prevent him from exercising the duties of it, may ultimately prove detrimental to the principle of the establishment ; and I trust, therefore, my declining to accept of it will be received as an additional proof of the sense I entertain of the incalculable utility of the corps, established and acting upon the principles which have contributed to bring them to that perfection which cannot but secure to them the admiration of every lover of his country.”

At the “grand field day of the whole brigade of Edinburgh and Leith Volunteers,” which took place at Drylaw Mains, on the 16th October 1798, Mr. Secretary Dundas was present. Sir Ralph Abercromby was then Commander-in-Chief in Scotland. The following particulars from the *Courant* of that period, relative to the review, may be deemed interesting :—

“The different corps paraded in the New Town at ten o’clock, and marched

<sup>1</sup> There are numerous portraits and busts of his lordship. An excellent painting (from Sir Joshua Reynolds) adorns the hall of the Scottish Antiquaries. Another, by Alexander Runciman, is in the Museum of the Perth Antiquarian Society. He also presented to the Faculty of Advocates a portrait in crayons, with an inscription written by himself, and highly complimentary to the donor.

in sub-divisions to Drylaw Mains, about three miles from town, in the following order :—Light Horse, Royal Edinburgh Artillery, First Regiment, first battalion of the Second Regiment, Royal Edinburgh Highlanders, second battalion of the Second Regiment, Leith Volunteers, Mid-Lothian Artillery. After arriving on the ground, the brigade drew up in a line, which extended a great length. A salute was then fired by the Artillery on each flank ; and his Excellency Sir Ralph Abercromby, Commander-in-Chief, attended by General Vyse, the North British staff, several other officers, and the Right Hon. Secretary Dundas, entered from the right, and rode along the whole line. Mr. Dundas was dressed in the uniform of the First Regiment, of which he is a private. In passing the line both times he rode with his hat off. The appearance and discipline of the different corps gave general satisfaction to the military gentlemen and a numerous body of spectators. A party of the Norfolk Cavalry and Shropshire Militia attended to keep the ground clear."

Lord Melville at one time proposed that a certain allowance weekly should be given to the members of the First Regiment of Edinburgh Volunteers, but the offer was declined.

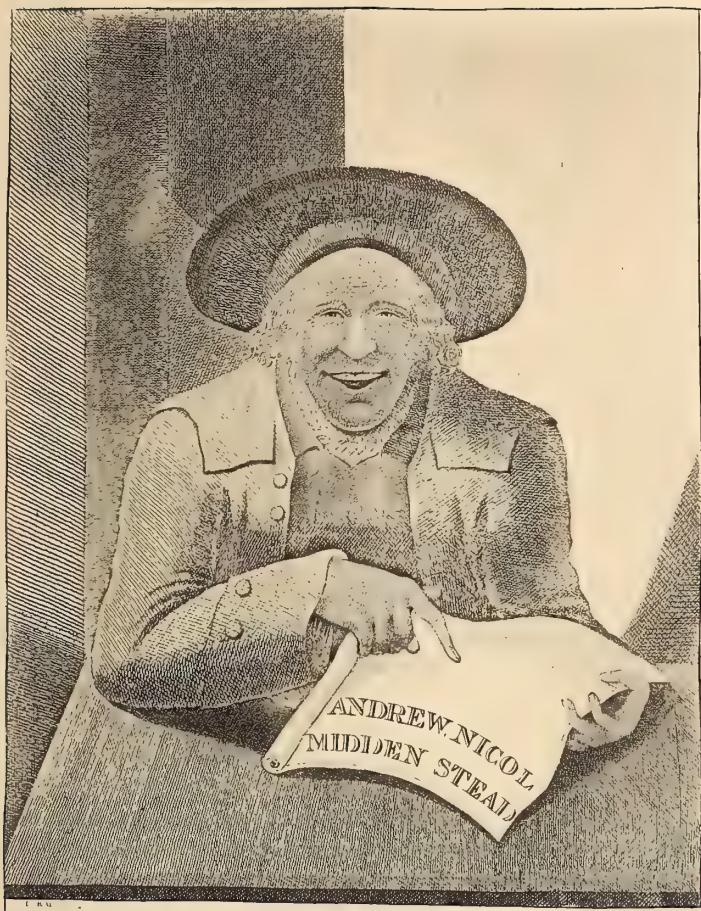
#### No. CXVIII.

#### A N D R E W N I C O L,

WITH A PLAN OF HIS MIDDENSTEAD.

THIS is one of the “Parliament House worthies” mentioned in the *Traditions of Edinburgh*, where he is described as “a sensible-looking man, with a large blue bonnet, in which guise Kay has a very good portrait of him, displaying, with chuckling pride, a plan of his precious middenstead.”

MUCK ANDREW, as he was familiarly termed, was a native of the ancient burgh of Kinross. He was a linen-weaver to trade ; and, if not in affluent circumstances, could at all events boast an honest independence, in the possession of a house and a kail-yard, which had descended to him through a long line of forefathers. About the beginning of this century it was esteemed quite an unfashionable thing for a gentleman of property not to have a law-suit. Poor Andrew unluckily fell a victim to the mania. Some misunderstanding having arisen between him and a neighbour *proprietor* about the situation or boundary of a dunghill, nothing less could adjust matters than an appeal to a court of law. Andrew seems to have been successful in the inferior courts ; but his opponent, having a longer purse, carried the case to the Court of Session, and by one expedient or other, protracted a decision until he compelled poor Andrew to litigate in *forma pauperis*. The whole affair was certainly a satire on judicial proceedings ; but it took such possession of the simpleton’s mind as to engross









all his attention, and week after week he used to travel from Kinross to Edinburgh (a distance of twenty-seven miles) to inquire about the progress of his law-suit. Kay relates that when the Print was published in 1802, no fewer than one hundred and sixteen subscribers were obtained among the gentlemen of the legal profession—so well acquainted were they with the proprietor of the middenstead.

The result of this appetite for law on the part of poor Andrew was the total neglect of his business at Kinross. His affairs consequently went to ruin, and the unfortunate litigant died in the jail of Cupar, in 1817, where he had been incarcerated for debt.

#### No. CXIX.

### THREE LEGAL DEVOTEES.

#### ANDREW NICOL, MARY WALKER, AND JOHN SKENE.

THIS is allowed by some to be one of the best of Kay's etchings. ANDREW NICOL, whom we have noticed in the preceding page, may here be supposed newly arrived from Kinross with the plan of his middenstead. His simple face and genuine Lowland garb are well depicted; and the credulous attention with which he is listening to the *Heckler* is truly characteristic.

MARY WALKER, whose vacant countenance indicates insanity, was an intolerable pest about the Parliament House. The object of her legal solicitude was the recovery of a sum of money which she conceived to be due her by the Magistrates of Edinburgh.

JOHN SKENE—the smart, consequential-looking personage in black, engaged in expounding some knotty point to the Kinross litigant—was an individual whose brains, to use the expression of Major Campbell, were pretty considerably “conglomerated.” He was a flax-dresser, hence his *soubriquet* of the *Heckler*; but this plebeian avocation was with him a matter of secondary consideration, as he conceived he was commissioned to hold two situations of the highest importance in the country, viz.—Superintendent of the Court of Session, and of the General Assembly. The way he found leisure to fulfil the high duties he thus imposed on himself was not a little remarkable. He worked nearly all night at the dressing of flax—only retiring to rest for an hour or two towards morning. He then rose, and, having arrayed himself in the clerical style represented in the Print, proceeded to the Parliament House, with all the

self-consequence of a *parvenu* peer. The Heckler believed his presence actually necessary to the proper despatch of business, and in this way continued his extraordinary exertions session after session. Like Bartoline Saddletree in the *Heart of Midlothian*, he was a propounder of the mysteries of law; and although not so loquacious as the saddler of the Lawnmarket, was nearly as sane on any other topic, excepting church matters.

The sitting of the ecclesiastical court was another important and busy season. Over the deliberations of this reverend body he wielded the same imaginary control; but he invariably declared the clergy were much "worse to keep in order than the lawyers."

For a madman, the Heckler wore an air of remarkable sedateness, and counterfeited the clerical character to such perfection, that Dr. Blair is said to have been on one occasion nearly placed in an awkward predicament by the deception. He called on the Doctor as a reverend brother of the cloth, and made offer of his services for a day in the pulpit, which were accepted. He accordingly proceeded to the High Church the succeeding Sunday, where he was fortunately detected just in time to prevent the ridiculous exhibition.

The services of the Heckler were all performed *pro bono publico*; but, like most other great patriots, he began to tire of the labour and inconvenience to which his liberal principles subjected him, and at length applied to the Exchequer Office for remuneration. Aware of the character, his claims were listened to by the underlings with mock gravity, and his visits were for some time encouraged, till at last, getting tired of his importunities, he was ordered not to trouble them in future. This rebuff was nearly productive of a tragedy; as he next day entered the Office, armed with a loaded pistol, and threatened to shoot Mr. Baird, one of the gentlemen of the establishment. This was carrying the joke too far. The Heckler was instantly disarmed, and confined as a lunatic. He lived in the Potterrow, and died many years ago.

#### No. CXX.

### FOUR BUCKS.

DR. EISTON, SIGNIOR STABILINI,

CAPTAIN M'KENZIE, AND MACNAB OF MACNAB.

THE first of these figures (to the left) is the likeness of DR. EISTON, son of Mr. John Eiston, solicitor-at-law in Edinburgh.<sup>1</sup> While a student at the University, young Eiston was, in the estimation of the fine young men of those

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Eiston resided in one of those houses at the foot of Allan's Close, leading into Lady Mary King's Close. Mr. Eiston's was considered a fashionable house in these days, and he used to give a great many dinners and evening entertainments.



Kay's

Bucks have at you all or who's afraid

120 7<sup>50</sup>



days, a macaroni of the first water ; which, when translated, means “a pretty considerable puppy.” After taking his degree of M.D. he entered the army, and served as assistant-surgeon in the 35th Regiment, with which he sojourned for some time in Ireland. Having there lost his health, the Doctor resolved to visit his native city, but died suddenly on his passage between Belfast and Glasgow.

The second (on the right) is a capital resemblance of an Italian musician, named HIERONYMO STABILINI, who was a native of Rome, and came to Edinburgh about the year 1778. The musical talents of Stabilini were much admired ; and although, unlike the modern Orpheus Paganini, he could not “discourse sweet airs” from a single piece of catgut, his performances on the four pieces were generally admired. The musician met with an unlucky accident, however, which materially injured his “bow arm,” while enjoying himself on one occasion at Leith races. Stabilini, the better to participate in the sport, had mounted a hackney charger—some “red-wud Kilbirnie blastie”—and not being destined to “witch the world with noble horsemanship,” felt considerable difficulty in maintaining the proper bearing of a gentleman of the turf. At last, while performing some awkward gambols on the sands, apparently less to his own satisfaction than to the gratification of the spectators, he happened to come in contact with another equally accomplished equestrian, when the musician was unhorsed, and had his arm broken. It was said that after this accident he could never play on the violin so correctly as formerly.

Stabilini was particularly intimate with Corri, a countryman of his own, a composer and teacher of eminence, who built the music-rooms, called the Adelphi Theatre, at the head of Broughton Street.<sup>1</sup> The two friends sat down one evening, after a tiresome exhibition of their musical talents, to regale themselves over a glass of whisky-toddy, in preference to the less exhilarating wines of their fatherland. While engaged in this pleasurable occupation, and their hearts expanding in mutual pledges of friendship, they took no note of time. At

<sup>1</sup> Corri was also some time manager of the Theatre. In a theatrical critique for 1801, which animadverts pretty freely on the public of Edinburgh for their indifference to theatrical representations, it is said—“By the run of the *School for Scandal*, our Italian manager, Corri, was enabled for a while to swim like boys on bladders ; but he ultimately sunk under the weight of his debts, and was only released by the benignity of the British laws. Neither the universal abilities of Wilkinson, his private worth, nor his full company, could draw the attention of the capital of the North, till he was some hundred pounds out of pocket ; and though he was at last assisted, by the interference of certain public characters, yet all his after success did little more than make up his losses in the beginning of the season.” Corri applied for and obtained the benefit of the *Cessio Bonorum*; and, upon obtaining a decree freeing his person from imprisonment, he is said to have observed, “dat he had got de cessio, but de lawyers had got de bonorum.”

The second Corri (the son) was, amidst all his difficulties, most regardless of the interests of his creditors and of himself. At the time his affairs were at the worst, a friend, going into Weddel the confectioner’s shop opposite the Tron Church, found Corri very comfortably seated, eating a pineapple—a great extravagance in those times. “Are you not ashamed, Mr. Corri, of this ?” said he. “What would your creditors think of this ?” “Oh, sare,” said Corri, “noting at all, noting at all—what is *seven-and-sixpence* to be divided among my creditors !”

length, when an ominous vacuum began to render less distinct the hitherto bright and vivid reminiscences of an Italian sky, under which they had been all night, in imagination, enjoying themselves—Stabilini staggered towards the window, through the shutters of which he fancied he beheld a stream of light, and throwing them open, was confounded to witness the full blaze of an autumnal morning. “Corri! Corri!” exclaimed the astonished Stabilini to his drowsy countryman—“Be-gar, it’s to-morrow!”

Stabilini was a joyous creature.<sup>1</sup> He was a great favourite of Skene of Skene—a gentleman of ability and genius, and who loved of all things to spend the night over his glass with his friends. Stabilini—or *Stab*, as he was familiarly called—was his frequent companion, and used to spend weeks with him in the country, where he was in the habit of acting as butler, or rather as factotum of the establishment. While there it was no uncommon thing for *to-morrow* to dawn before the Bacchanalian orgies of the night had been concluded.

Stabilini died at Edinburgh in July 1815, and was buried in the West Churchyard, where a stone fixed in the wall of the south entrance bears the following inscription—“Memoriæ Hieronymi Stabilini, Amici Mœrentes Posuerunt: Romæ Natus, Edinæ obiit Mens. Jul. MDCCCXV., Ætat. LIV.”

The third figure in the Print represents a personage of “sterner stuff” than either of the two foregoing, being an excellent likeness of the somewhat notorious CAPTAIN M’KENZIE of Red Castle. The small estate bearing this name is situated in the neighbourhood of Montrose. The old castle, now in ruins, on the banks of the Lunan, is supposed to have been built by William the Lion.

This gentleman was an officer in Seaforth’s Regiment of Highlanders, at the time of their revolt in 1778. The regiment had for some time been quartered in the Castle of Edinburgh; but, contrary to expectation, they were at length ordered to embark for Guernsey. Previous to this, a difference existed between the officers and men—the latter declaring that neither their bounty nor the arrears of their pay had been fully paid up, and that they had otherwise been ill used. On the day appointed for embarkation (Tuesday, the 22d September) the regiment marched for Leith; but farther than the Links the soldiers refused to move a single step. A scene of great confusion ensued: the officers endeavoured to soothe the men by promising to rectify every abuse. About five hundred were prevailed on to embark, but as many more were deaf to all entreaty; and, being in possession of powder and ball, any attempt to force them would have proved both ineffectual and dangerous. The mutineers then moved back to Arthur Seat, where they took up a position, and in which they continued encamped more than ten days. They were supplied plentifully with

<sup>1</sup> The tricks he played off upon the natives with his favourite spaniel, at private parties, and in particular at the public dinner in Mid-Calder, will yet be remembered by many.

provisions by the inhabitants of Edinburgh, and were daily visited by crowds of people of all ranks. In the meantime, troops were brought into the city with the view of compelling the mutineers to submission, but no intimidation had any effect. General Skene (then second in command in Scotland), together with the Earl of Dunmore, and other noblemen and gentlemen, visited the mutineers;<sup>1</sup> and at last, after a great many messages had passed between the parties, a compromise was effected. The terms were—a pardon for past offences ; all bye money and arrears to be paid before embarkation, and a special understanding that they should not be sent to the East Indies—a report having prevailed among the soldiers that they had been sold to the East India Company. So cautious were the mutineers, a bond had to be given confirming the agreement, signed by the Duke of Buccleuch, the Earl of Dunmore, Sir Adolphus Oughton, K.B., Commander-in-Chief, and General Skene, second in command in Scotland. After this arrangement, the Highlanders cheerfully proceeded to Leith and embarked.

Kay relates an anecdote of Captain M'Kenzie, which occurred during the prevalence of the mutiny, highly characteristic of his fortitude and determined disposition. One day while he was in command over the Canongate Jail, where a few of the mutineers were confined, a party from Arthur Seat came to demand their liberation. The Captain sternly refused—the soldiers threatened to take his life, and pointed their bayonets at him ; but he bared his breast, and telling them to strike, at the same time declared that not a single man should be liberated. The effect of this resolute conduct was instantaneous—the men recovered arms, and retired to their encampment.

Captain M'Kenzie afterwards incurred an unfortunate celebrity from a circumstance which reflected less credit upon him than the above act of heroism, and for which abuse of power he was tried at the Old Bailey, London, on the 11th December 1784.

He had been sent out in 1782, as captain of an independent company, to act against the Dutch on the coast of Africa ; and was there appointed to the command of a small fortification, called Fort Morea. Among the prisoners of the fort was a person of the name of Murray Kenneth M'Kenzie alias Jefferson, who had been confined for desertion.<sup>2</sup> Jefferson, possessing more than common address, prevailed on the sentry to let him escape ; upon learning which, Captain M'Kenzie was in a violent passion. He caused the sentinel to be punished with more than fifteen hundred lashes, and immediately despatched a party of soldiers in search of the runaway. The men returned, however, without success ; upon which he ordered the guns to be charged and directed against a small village in the neighbourhood, named Black Town,

<sup>1</sup> The Rev. Joseph Robertson Macgregor, of the Gaelic Chapel (formerly noticed), also visited the mutineers, and acted as an interpreter between the parties.

<sup>2</sup> He had deserted twice previously. He had been heard to express his resolution of murdering M'Kenzie, and had, moreover, endeavoured to induce the soldiers to mutiny. See a tract entitled an "Address to the Officers of the British Army." London, 1785. 8vo.

where he supposed the prisoner had taken refuge, and he gave notice that, if Jefferson was not instantly delivered up, he would blow the town to atoms. A shot or two soon had the desired effect. About three thousand of the natives were seen approaching towards the fort, with Jefferson in the centre. No sooner had the prisoner been brought into the court than the Captain gave him to understand that he had not a moment to live. Then ordering one of the cannons to be prepared, had him instantly lashed to the muzzle of the piece. The prisoner bade one of his comrades beg for one half hour to say his prayers ; but the answer the Captain returned was—"No, you rascal ; if any man speaks a word in his favour I will blow out his brains ;" at the same time brandishing the pistol which he held in his hand. A portion of the burial-service being read to the prisoner, the Captain ordered the prayer-book to be pulled out of his hands. Jefferson than hastily took leave of his comrades ; and, after upbraiding the tyrant, as he called the Captain, gave the signal. In a moment the match was applied, and the next the prisoner was blown over the wall. His remains were afterwards picked up by the men and interred.

In defence of such an extraordinary and savage stretch of power, Captain M'Kenzie endeavoured to prove that his company were mutinous—that Jefferson had been a ringleader, and had been repeatedly heard to threaten the life of the Captain. The evidence was by no means conclusive as to this allegation ; and the implicit obedience displayed by the men in the execution of an illegal and shocking sentence does not strengthen his assertion. It appeared, however, from unquestionable authority, that he had a very worthless set of characters under his command<sup>1</sup>—the garrison being mostly composed of convicts ; and besides, he had not the means of forming a court-martial for the trial of the prisoner.

The jury found M'Kenzie guilty of wilful murder ; but, in consideration of the "desperate crew he had to command," they recommended him to mercy. During the trial and passing of sentence, the Captain behaved with the utmost composure. His execution was first delayed for a week—then he was respite— and ultimately pardoned.

After obtaining his liberty, the Captain returned to his native country ; and, during his stay in Edinburgh, afforded Kay an opportunity of taking his likeness as one of "The Bucks." On observing the Print in the booksellers' windows, the Captain was offended at being classed, as he said, "with fiddlers and madmen." He called on the artist, and offered a guinea to have it altered ; but, finding his entreaty vain, he insisted on leaving half-a-guinea, for which he soon after got a miniature painting of himself.

Although M'Kenzie had incapacitated himself for the British service, yet being still "intent on war," he resolved to try his hand against the Turks.

<sup>1</sup> The unfortunate Murray M'Kenzie *alias* Jefferson had been a drummer in the 3d Regiment of Foot Guards ; but unluckily, about twelve years previous to his death, he fell in with a gang of shop-lifters. He had been ten times tried, and four times sentenced to be hanged ; but always found friends to obtain a mitigation of his sentence.

With this view he entered the ranks of the Russian army, and served in the war against the Turks. He was at last killed in a duel with a fellow-officer, not far from Constantinople.

THE fourth figure, or last of “The Bucks,” our readers will recognise as an old acquaintance—the LAIRD of MACNAB. The eccentricities of the Laird have been already pretty amply detailed in No. III. of the Portraits. There is, however, one other anecdote which may be added.

Macnab was proceeding from the west, on one occasion, to Dunfermline, with a company of the Breadalbane Fencibles, of which he had the command. In those days the Highlanders were notorious for incurable smuggling propensities ; and an excursion to the Lowlands, whatever might be its cause or import, was an opportunity by no means to be neglected. The Breadalbane men had accordingly contrived to stow a considerable quantity of the genuine “peat reek” into the baggage carts. All went well with the party for some time. On passing Alloa, however, the excisemen there having got a hint as to what the carts contained, hurried out by a shorter path to intercept them. In the meantime, Macnab, accompanied by a gillie, in the true feudal style, was proceeding slowly at the head of his men, not far in the rear of the baggage. Soon after leaving Alloa, one of the party in charge of the carts came running back and informed their chief that they had all been seized by a posse of excisemen. This intelligence at once roused the blood of Macnab. “Did the lousy villains *dare* to obstruct the march of the Breadalbane Highlanders!” he exclaimed, inspired with the wrath of a thousand heroes ; and away he rushed to the scene of contention. There, sure enough, he found a party of excisemen in possession of the carts. “Who the devil are you?” demanded the angry chieftain. “Gentlemen of the excise,” was the answer. “Robbers! thieves! you mean; how dare you lay hands on his Majesty’s stores? If you be gaugers, show me your commissions.” Unfortunately for the excisemen, they had not deemed it necessary in their haste to bring such documents with them. In vain they asserted their authority, and declared they were well known in the neighbourhood. “Ay, just what I took ye for; a parcel of highway robbers and scoundrels.” “Come, my good fellows” (addressing the soldiers in charge of the baggage, and extending his voice with the lungs of a stentor), “Prime!—load!—” The excisemen did not wait the completion of the sentence; away they fled at top speed towards Alloa, no doubt glad they had not caused the waste of his Majesty’s ammunition. “Now, my lads,” said Macnab, “proceed—your whisky’s safe.”

No. CXXI.

DR. ANDREW HUNTER,

PROFESSOR OF DIVINITY IN THE UNIVERSITY, AND MINISTER OF THE TRON  
CHURCH, EDINBURGH.

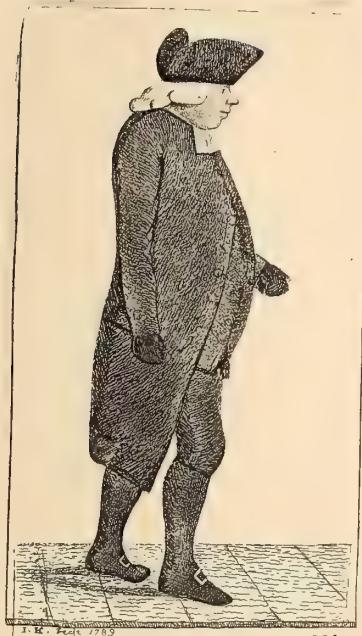
DR. ANDREW HUNTER was the eldest son of Andrew Hunter, Esq. of Park,<sup>1</sup> Writer to the Signet. His mother, Grisel Maxwell, was a daughter of General Maxwell, of Cardoness, in the stewartry of Kirkeudbright—a gentleman alike distinguished for his bravery and his piety. He was a zealous supporter of the Protestant interest; and, at the Revolution in 1688, was one of those who accompanied the Prince of Orange from Holland.

Dr. Hunter was born in Edinburgh in 1743, and, at an early period, gave evidence of that mildness of temper and goodness of disposition which so much endeared him in after life to all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. He was educated at the school taught by Mr. Mundell, one of the most distinguished teachers in Edinburgh at that period. Nearly fifty years afterwards, out of respect to him, a club was formed, consisting of those who had been his scholars —among whom we may enumerate the Earl of Buchan, Lord Hermand, Lord Polkemmet, Lord Balmuto, and other distinguished individuals, including Dr. Hunter. The members were in the habit of dining together at stated periods in honour of his memory. At these social meetings the parties lived their boyish days over again; and each was addressed in the familiar manner, and by the juvenile *soubriquet* which he bore when one of the “schule laddies.” Any deviation from these rules was punished by a fine.

After passing through his academical studies at the University of Edinburgh, Dr. Hunter spent a year at Utrecht, which he chiefly devoted to the study of theology—such a course being at that time considered highly necessary to perfect the student of divinity. Thus prepared for the Church, Dr. Hunter was licensed as a probationer by the Presbytery of Edinburgh in 1767; but he refused to accept of any charge till after the death of his venerable father, towards whom he manifested the utmost degree of filial affection, cheering the evening of his days by his kind attention and solicitude.

While attending the University, Dr. Hunter became intimate with several young gentlemen, afterwards distinguished in their various walks of life: among others, Sir Robert Liston (for many years ambassador to the Ottoman Court); Dr. Alexander Adam (rector of the High School); Dr. Sommerville, minister of Jedburgh (the historian); and Dr. Samuel Charteris, minister of Wilton.

<sup>1</sup> Descended from a branch of the family of Hunter of Hunterstone in Ayrshire.



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He was also connected with several literary and theological societies formed among his fellow-students ; and was a member of the Newtonian Society, instituted in 1760, which for several years continued to meet weekly in one of the rooms of the College, and which may be said to have been the precursor of the present Royal Society of Edinburgh.

An anecdote is told of Dr. Hunter in connection with this Society. He was at the time very young, and not sufficiently practised in the art of literary *condensation*. When it came to his turn to produce an essay for the evening, he had entered so sincerely and fully upon the subject that he appeared at the forum with an immense bundle of papers under his arm, and commenced by stating that his discourse consisted of *twelve* different parts ! This announcement alarmed the preses for the night so much, that he interrupted him by declaring that he had *twelve* distinct objections to the production of such a mass of manuscripts. The preses accordingly stated his twelve reasons, and was followed on the same side by six other members, who prefaced their observations by a similar declaration. During this opposition the temper of the young theologian remained unruffled ; and it was not till the last speaker had finished his oration that he took up his papers, and, without deigning to reply, walked out of the room.

In 1770 Dr. Hunter was presented to the New Church of Dumfries, and soon afterwards became the purchaser of the estate of Barjarg in that county, which had previously belonged to James Erskine of Barjarg and Alva—one of the Senators of the College of Justice. He remained at Dumfries for nine years, and was much esteemed by all classes of the community.

In 1779 he was presented to the New Greyfriars' Church, Edinburgh ; and whilst there was appointed the colleague of Dr. Hamilton (father to the late eminent physician), in the Divinity Professorship of the University ; and, until the death of that gentleman, continued to teach his class without any remuneration.

In 1786 he was translated by the Magistrates to the Tron Church, where he became associated with Dr. Drysdale<sup>1</sup>—a clergyman much esteemed for his

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Drysdale, whose presentation to Lady Yester's Church made much noise in Edinburgh, was a native of Kirkcaldy. He received his early education at the village school taught by Mr. David Miller, and was the intimate associate of Dr. Adam Smith, James Oswald of Dunnikier, and several other distinguished men, to whom Mr. Miller had the honour of imparting instruction. Dr. Drysdale was presented to Lady Yester's Church by the Town Council in 1763. For some time prior, the election of ministers for the city having been allowed to remain with the general sessions, the resumption of power by the Council in this instance gave rise to much cavil and commotion. A civil process was the consequence, which was ultimately decided in favour of the corporation. Notwithstanding the unpleasant circumstances connected with his presentation, the great talents and natural eloquence of Dr. Drysdale, together with his known character as a man, soon rendered him a popular minister. In 1766, he was still farther honoured by the Town Council, in being translated to the Tron Church on the death of Dr. Jardine. Dr. Drysdale was much esteemed by his brethren ; and, in 1773, was chosen Moderator of the General Assembly. In the affairs of this court he took an active interest ; and was the steady supporter of his friend Dr. Robertson, on the moderate side. In conjunction with his venerable colleague Dr. Wishart, he was appointed Clerk to the Court in 1778 ; and, in 1784, had the peculiar honour of being a second time solicited to be put in nomina-

talents and amiable character. Although differing on some points of church polity, the two incumbents lived on terms of the closest intimacy during the short period of their connection ; and the kind attentions of Dr. Hunter contributed much to promote the comfort of his venerable friend in the declining years of his long and useful life.

The lectures of Dr. Hunter, as Professor of Divinity, were distinguished by a plain, clear, and accurate statement of the evidences and doctrine of Christianity ; and it was his uniform and earnest endeavour to promote practical piety and ministerial usefulness among his students. For this purpose he cultivated an acquaintance with them in private ; and, to such as he found most worthy and most in want of assistance, he not only made presents of books but frequently aided them with sums of money, which he conveyed in such a way as to insure the gratitude without injuring the feelings of the receiver ; while, for those who were distinguished by piety and talents, he endeavoured to procure situations of usefulness and respectability. He also, from his own funds, gave a prize yearly for the best theological essay on a prescribed subject ; and he was remarkable for the candour and impartiality which he observed in adjudging the reward.

In the pulpit Dr. Hunter had an earnest and affectionate manner of delivery ; and his discourses were sound in their doctrine and practical in their tendency. Several of his sermons, on particular occasions, have been published : one, in 1792, is entitled “The Duties of Subjects,” which seems to have been written with a view to counteract the republican mania which the French Revolution had introduced into the country. The discourse is characterised by a comprehensive view of the relative duties of those who govern and of the governed. The arguments are judicious and forcible, and the language moderate and conciliatory. We find another published sermon by Dr. Hunter, entitled “Christ’s Drawing all Men unto Him,” preached before the Edinburgh Missionary Society, in Lady Glenorchy’s Chapel, on Thursday the 20th of July 1797 ;<sup>1</sup> and in the “Scottish Preacher”—a publication of very considerable excellence—two other discourses will be found.

tion for the moderatorship ; when, in spite of every exertion by the opposing party, he was elected by a decided majority. Although frequently urged, Dr. Drysdale always declined giving his sermons to the world. At his death, however, several of them were collected and published in two volumes 8vo, with a Memoir of his Life by his son-in-law, Professor Andrew Dalziel—a Portrait of whom will be found in a subsequent part of this work.

<sup>1</sup> The office-bearers of the Society at this time were—

PRESIDENT—James Haldane, Esq.

VICE-PRESIDENT—Rev. Dr. Johnston. TREASURER—Mr. John Tawse, Writer.

SECRETARY—Rev. Greville Ewing. CLERK—Mr. William Dymock, Writer.

DIRECTORS.

Rev. Dr. Hunter.	Rev. Mr. Buchanan.	Mr. John Campbell.
Rev. Mr. Hall.	Rev. Mr. Bennet.	Mr. William Ellis.
Rev. Mr. Peddie.	Rev. Mr. Culbertson.	Mr. William M’Lean.
Rev. Mr. Black.	Mr. John Pitcairn.	Mr. Alexander Pitcairn.
Rev. Mr. Colquhoun.	Mr. William Pattison.	Mr. George Gibson.
Rev. Mr. Struthers.	Mr. James Scott.	Mr. John Aikman.

In discharging the private duties of his profession, no individual could be more zealous than Dr. Hunter. The great aim of his life seemed to be in every possible way to extend the knowledge and practice of true religion. To all the religious and charitable institutions of Edinburgh he contributed largely from his own substance; and wide and judicious was the range of his private beneficence. Both in his pastoral conduct and in the discharge of his duties as a Professor of Theology, no individual could be more completely divested of bigotry or party spirit. He judged of others by himself; and uniformly gave credit to those who were opposed to him on minor points of religious opinion, or as to questions of church polity, for the same integrity and purity of intention by which his own conduct was governed. By his brethren he was much respected; and his well-known candour procured every attention to his opinions in the church courts.<sup>1</sup>

In the following quotation the character of Dr. Hunter has been drawn by one who knew him intimately, and whose judgment may well be considered no slight authority:—"But shall I not mention the known integrity and purity of his mind—the candour and sincerity which so eminently distinguished him through life, and which ever commanded the confidence of those who differed from him most in judgment—the fair, and open, and generous spirit which he invariably discovered, when he judged of other men, or acted with them—the scorn with which he ever contemplated an unfair, an uninterested, a disingenuous proceeding—the mildness of his temper, of which, by the grace of God he had acquired the entire command; and (what can certainly be said of few amongst us all), which was scarcely ever known to have been roused into passion, either in public or domestic life—the earnestness and godly sincerity with which he followed every good work, and co-operated with other men whom he believed to be sincerely disposed to be useful; with no shade of worldly selfishness to pervert his conduct; without ostentation; superior to envy, and superior to pride; gentle and forbearing with all men; but firm and immovable where he saw his duty before him; fervent in spirit, serving the Lord." In the private relations of life few men could be more estimable. He was one of the kindest of husbands—an affectionate parent—and the most attached of friends.

At a period of life when actively employed in discharging the duties of his profession and in the full enjoyment of health, on returning from the sacramental services at Leith, he was suddenly seized with inflammation, and died, after a few days' illness, on the 21st of April 1809. The closing scene of his life was as exemplary and instructive as his whole previous conduct had been; and he looked upon his approaching dissolution with all the calmness, resignation, and hope, which a well-spent life can inspire. Funeral sermons were preached on the occasion by his colleague the Rev. Dr. Simpson, and the Rev. Sir Henry Moncreiff Wellwood, Bart.; and most gratifying tributes of respect were paid to his memory by almost all the clergy of the city.

<sup>1</sup> He was appointed Moderator of the General Assembly in 1792.

Dr. Hunter married, in 1779, Marion Shaw, eldest daughter of William, sixth Lord Napier, by whom he had four children. His eldest son, a member of the Faculty of Advocates (who afterwards took the name of Arundel in compliance with the wishes of his wife, who was a relative of Lord Arundel of Wardour), succeeded to the estate, and died leaving several children. His youngest son, the Rev. John Hunter, was appointed one of the ministers of the Tron Church—which charge he held till his death, in conjunction with the late Dr. Brunton, Professor of Hebrew in the University.

## No CXXII.

## LORD CRAIG.

THE father of his lordship, Dr. William Craig, was one of the ministers of Glasgow, author of “An Essay on the Life of Christ,” and two volumes of excellent sermons. WILLIAM—the subject of the Print—was born in 1745. He studied at the College of Glasgow, where he was distinguished for his classical acquirements. In 1768, he was admitted to the bar, and became intimate with several young persons, chiefly of the same profession, who met once a week for the improvement of their professional knowledge.

As an advocate Mr. Craig was not so successful as might have been anticipated from his talents. His tastes and habits were perhaps too literary to lead him to legal eminence. He nevertheless had a fair share of business; and, in 1784, when Sir Ilay Campbell became Lord Advocate, he and his intimate friends, Blair and Abercromby, were appointed Advocate-deputes. In 1787 he became Sheriff-depute of Ayrshire; and, on the death of Lord Hailes in 1792, took his seat on the bench as Lord Craig. In 1795, he succeeded Lord Henderland as a Commissioner of Justiciary. This office he held till 1812, when he resigned it on account of declining health; but retained his seat in the Civil Court until his death.

Lord Craig was more distinguished on the bench than he had been at the bar. His conduct was upright and honourable; and to excellent professional talents, and a profound knowledge of law, he joined the most persevering exertion. There were few of his colleagues who despatched more business, or with greater accuracy, than his lordship. His judgments, formed after careful and anxious consideration, were generally clear and well-founded.

The fame, however, of Lord Craig does not rest solely on his character either as a lawyer or a judge. His well-known attainments, and especially his connection with “The Mirror” and “The Lounger” have raised his name to an honourable place among the literary characters of his native land. Most of our readers are aware that the *Mirror* and *Lounger* were the joint productions of a club of gentlemen—of whom Henry Mackenzie, author of the “Man



I. KAY. 1799

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of Feeling," was the only individual whose name was made public at the time.<sup>1</sup>

The origin and progress of the club is related in the concluding number of the *Mirror*. The object at first contemplated by the contributors was simply that of relaxation from severer studies; and, by committing their thoughts to writing, to improve and extend their tastes on various subjects connected with the *belles lettres*. Their essays were read at weekly meetings held for the purpose; and for some time no farther extent of publicity was given to the transactions of this club, which generally met in a tavern.<sup>2</sup>

Lord Craig (then an advocate) was one of the most zealous members; and with him originated the idea of publishing the essays. Next to those of Mackenzie, the contributions of his lordship were the most numerous; and are distinguished for a chaste and elegant style of composition.

The *Mirror* commenced in January 1779 and terminated in May 1780. It was published weekly; and each number formed a small folio sheet, which was sold at three half-pence. The thirty-sixth number of this work, written by Lord Craig, "contributed," says Dr. Anderson (*Lives of the Poets*, vol. ii., p. 273), "in no inconsiderable degree to rescue from oblivion the name and writings of the ingenious and amiable young poet, Michael Bruce." The *Lounger*,<sup>3</sup> to which Lord Craig also contributed largely, was commenced several years afterwards by the same club of gentlemen; and both periodical works have passed through numerous editions, and become standard British classics.

In private life Lord Craig was much esteemed for his gentle and courteous manners, and the benevolence and hospitality of his disposition. In person he might be reckoned handsome, and was rather above the middle size. A fine portrait of him, in his later years, by Sir Henry Raeburn, long graced the walls of the house occupied by the late Robert Sym, Esq., in George Square.

<sup>1</sup> Besides Mackenzie and Lord Craig, the gentlemen connected with the Club were, Mr. Alexander Abercromby, afterwards Lord Abercromby (uncle of the Speaker); Mr. Robert Cullen, afterwards Lord Cullen; Mr. Macleod Bannatyne, afterwards Lord Bannatyne; Mr. George Home (by a strange mistake, in the new edition of *Scott's Works* this gentleman has been seated on the bench as Lord Wedderburn), afterwards a Principal Clerk of Session; Mr. William Gordon of Newhall; and Mr. George Ogilvie. The association was at first termed the *Tabernacle*; but when the resolution of publishing was adopted, it assumed the name of the *Mirror Club*. To the ninth edition of the *Mirror*, published in 1792, and the sixth of the *Lounger*, in 1794, are prefixed the names of the authors. Among the correspondents were—Lord Hailes, Mr. Baron Hume, Mr. Tytler and his Son (Lord Woodhouselee), Professor Richardson, Dr. Beattie, Dr. Henry, and other eminent literary persons.

<sup>2</sup> The club met sometimes in *Clerihugh's*, Writers' Court; sometimes in *Somers'*, opposite the Guard-House in the High Street; sometimes in *Stewart's* oyster house, Old Fishmarket Close; and fully as often, perhaps, in *Lucky Dunbar's*—a moderate and obscure house, situated in an alley leading betwixt Forrester's and Libberton's Wynd.

<sup>3</sup> In one of the numbers of this periodical work appeared a short review of the first (or Kilmarnock) edition of the poems of Burns. The notice was written by Henry Mackenzie; and it may be said, with some truth, that this production of the "Man of Feeling" proved the means of deciding the fate, and probably the fame of the bard. He was an unknown wight, and on the eve of bidding farewell to his native country, when the *Lounger*, and the kind exertions of Dr. Blacklock the poet, happily brought him into notice, and procured for him the patronage of the learned and fashionable circles of Edinburgh.

Lord Craig never possessed a robust constitution, and fell into bad health several years before his death, which happened at Edinburgh on the 8th July 1813, in the sixty-eighth year of his age. He resided for many years in George Square ; but latterly removed to York Place. While Sheriff-depute of Ayrshire he chiefly occupied a house called Strathaird, on the banks of the Water-of-Ayr.<sup>1</sup>

## No. CXXIII.

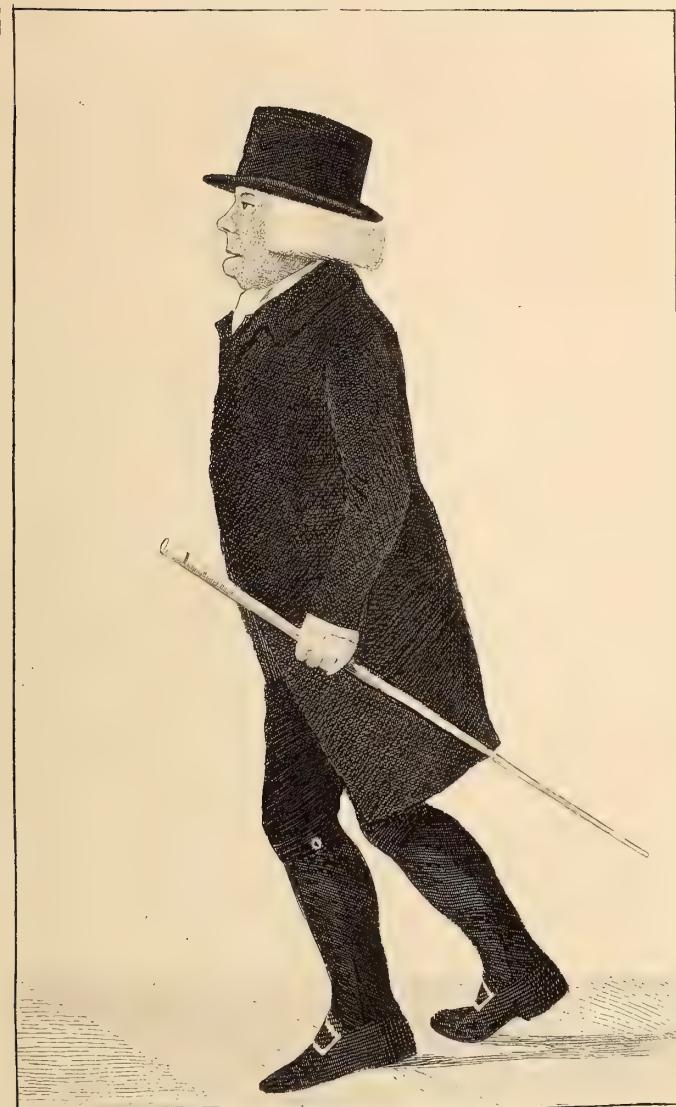
## MUNGO WATSON,

BEADLE OF LADY YESTER'S CHURCH, ETC.

MUNGO was a living chronicle of the Presbyterian Church, or rather of the passing events in what he called the religious world. He was keeper of the hall for the meetings of the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge, beadle of Lady Yester's Church, and one of the door-keepers during the sittings of the General Assembly.

Such a variety of official employments gave him every opportunity of acquiring early notice of what was going on, and enabled him to fill up the rest of his time profitably—for Mungo never lost sight of profit—as the following anecdote proves :—Mr. Black, the minister of Lady Yester's Church, was perhaps the most popular preacher of his day ; and strangers visiting the church generally gave a trifle to the beadle to procure a seat. A gentleman had con-

<sup>1</sup> It may perhaps be worthy of notice that Lord Craig was cousin-german of Mrs. M'Lehose, the celebrated CLARINDA of Burns, who is still living in Edinburgh, and was left an annuity by his lordship. She is now nearly eighty years of age, but enjoys excellent health. We found her sitting in the parlour, with some papers on the table. Her appearance at first betrayed a little of that languor and apathy which attend age and solitude ; but the moment she comprehended the object of our visit, her countenance, which even yet retains the lineaments of what *Clarinda* may be supposed to have been, became animated and intelligent. “That,” said she, rising up and pointing to an engraving over the mantel-piece, “is a likeness of my relative (Lord Craig) about whom you have been inquiring. He was the best friend I ever had.” After a little further conversation about his lordship, she directed our attention to a picture of Burns, by Horsburgh after Taylor, on the opposite wall of the apartment. “You will know who that is—it was presented to me by Constable and Co. for having simply declared, what I knew to be true, that the likeness was good.” We spoke of the correspondence betwixt the Poet and Clarinda, at which she smiled and pleasantly remarked on the great change which the lapse of so many years had produced on her personal appearance. Indeed, any observation respecting Burns seemed to afford her pleasure ; and she laughed at a little anecdote we told of him, which she had never before heard. Having prolonged our intrusion to the limits of courtesy, and conversed on various topics, we took leave of the venerable lady, highly gratified by the interview. To see and talk with one whose name is so indissolubly associated with the fame of Burns, and whose talents and virtues were so much esteemed by the bard—who has now been sleeping the sleep of death for upwards of forty years—may well give rise to feelings of no ordinary description. In youth Clarinda must have been about the middle size. Burns, she said, if still living, would have been much about her own age—probably a few months older. Feb. 24, 1837.



PRAYERS AT ALL PRICES





JK  
1784



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formed to this practice in the forenoon, and returned to resume his seat in the afternoon, but was prevented by Mungo. The gentleman reminded him he had paid him in the forenoon. "O but," says Mungo, "I let my seats twice a-day."

During the sittings of the General Assembly he contrived, in his capacity of door-keeper, to make the most of the situation, and pocketed as much of "the needful" as he possibly could exact by an embargo upon visitors. He was highly esteemed by a large circle of old ladies of the middle ranks, who eagerly listened to the gossip he contrived to pick up in the course of the day. He could inform them of the proceedings of the Edinburgh Presbytery—what had been done at the last, and what was forthcoming at the next General Assembly—whose turn it was to preach at Haddo's Hole on the Tuesday or Friday following—whether the minister would preach himself or by proxy—whether John Bailie would be at the plate, or his son Tam in the precentor's desk—with various other scraps of local news equally edifying and instructive to his auditors.

It has been rumoured that he made a regular charge for his visits; and hence the inscription on the Print of "Prayers at all Prices." By way of improvement in the art of ghostly admonition, the beadle sometimes ascended the pulpit of Lady Yester's Church, and held forth to the vacant benches. On one of these occasions, it is said Dr. Davidson happened to come upon him unawares—

"Come down, Mungo," said the Doctor, "toom (empty) barrels<sup>1</sup> make most sound."

The gravity of his manner was well calculated to make an impression on the ignorant or the weak; and those who could appreciate his merits were greatly edified by his prayers and ghostly exhortations. There was a peculiar degree of solemnity about his features. The ponderous weight of his nether jaw gave a hollow tone, not only to his words, but even when closing on the tea and toast, a dram, or a glass of wine, it was excellently adapted to produce the effect —*solemn*.

Watson was married, and had a son and daughter. He died in December 1809. His widow died in the Trinity Hospital about 1834.

#### No. CXXIV.

#### JAMES ROBERTSON OF KINCRAIGIE.

THIS Print of "The Daft Highland Laird"—of whose eccentricities an ample sketch has been given in No. II.—is one of the very first attempts of the artist at engraving. The Laird is here represented with his staff, upon which is poised a likeness of the city guardsman *John Dhu*. The person to whom he is describing the figure may be supposed to have just made the usual inquiry—"Wha hae ye up the day, Laird?"

<sup>1</sup> In allusion to the rotundity of his person, and his somewhat large paunch.

## No. CXXV.

## THOMAS MUIR, ESQ. YOUNGER OF HUNTERSHILL.

THE foregoing Print is allowed to be an excellent likeness of this “Political Martyr of 1793.” The facts and circumstances of his brief but eventful life have of late been so prominently brought forward,<sup>1</sup> that a mere recapitulation is only necessary.

MR. THOMAS MUIR, whose father was a wealthy merchant in Glasgow, and proprietor of the small estate of Huntershill, in the parish of Calder, was born in 1765. He studied at the University of his native city, where, it is said, he was distinguished not less for talent than gentleness of disposition. He chose the law as a profession; and was admitted to the bar, where he practised, with every appearance of ultimate success, for a few years, till the well-known events in France gave a new impulse to the democratic spirit of this, as well as of almost every other country in Europe. Muir, whose principles had always been of a liberal cast, now stepped publicly forward; and, ranging himself among “The Friends of the People,” at once embarked in the cause with all the characteristic zeal of youth.

The conduct of Muir having rendered him obnoxious to the existing authorities, he was apprehended in the beginning of January 1793, while on his way to Edinburgh, to be present at the trial of Mr. James Tytler.<sup>2</sup> On alighting from the coach at Holytown, he was taken prisoner by Mr. Williamson, King’s Messenger, in whose custody he finished the remainder of the journey. About an hour after his arrival in Edinburgh, he was brought before Mr. Sheriff Pringle and Mr. Honeyman (afterwards Lord Armadale), Sheriff of Lanarkshire. These gentlemen were proceeding to interrogate him in the usual manner, but Muir declared that in *that place* he would not answer any question whatever. “He considered such examinations as utterly inconsistent with the rights of British subjects—*instruments of oppression, and pregnant with mischief.*” Mr. Muir was liberated on finding bail to appear in February following.

Immediately after this occurrence he proceeded to London, and from thence to Paris, commissioned, as reported at the time, to intercede in behalf of the French king. Be that as it may, he was detained in France beyond the possibility of returning in time to stand his trial, and was in consequence outlawed

<sup>1</sup> Under the guidance of Mr. Joseph Hume, strong efforts have of late been made to do honour to the memory of Muir and the other individuals who suffered at the same period.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. James Tytler, as we have already mentioned in the biographical sketch of that gentleman, was indicted for publishing a seditious hand-bill. He was fugitated for non-appearance. His trial was to have taken place on the 7th of January.



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*Illustrious Martyr in the glorious cause  
Of truth, of freedom, and of equal laws.*



on the 25th February. The enemies of Muir represented his absence as an intentional flight from justice, arising from consciousness of guilt; but he accounted for the circumstance by the menacing attitude then assumed by the two countries, and the consequent difficulty of obtaining a conveyance home. He at last found a passage in a vessel cleared out for America, but which in reality was bound for Ireland. After a short detention in Dublin, where he became a member of the "Society of United Irishmen," and was warmly received by the Reformers of that city, he sailed for Scotland in the month of July, professedly with the intention of standing trial. In this intention, however, he was anticipated; as, on his arrival in Stranraer, he was recognised by an under officer of the customs, upon whose information he was arrested, and had all his papers taken from him.<sup>1</sup> From the prison of Stranraer he was once more conducted to Edinburgh under the charge of Williamson, where he was brought to trial on the 30th August.

The Court was opened by the Lord Justice-Clerk (Macqueen of Braxfield), and four Lords Commissioners of Justiciary—Lord Henderland, Lord Swinton, Lord Dunsinian, and Lord Abercromby.

The gentlemen of the jury were—

Sir James Foulis of Colinton, Bart.	James Rocheid of Inverleith
Captain John Inglis of Auchindinny	John Alves of Dalkeith
John Wauchope of Edmonstone	William Dalrymple, merchant, Edinburgh
John Balfour, younger of Pilrig	James Dickson, bookseller, do.
Andrew Wauchope of Niddry, Marischal	George Kinnear, banker, do.
John Trotter of Mortonhall	Andrew Forbes, merchant, do.
Gilbert Innes of Stow <sup>2</sup>	John Horner, merchant, do.
Donald Smith, banker, Edinburgh	

In the indictment Muir was charged with creating disaffection, by means of seditious speeches and harangues—of exhorting persons to purchase seditious publications—and, more particularly, of having been the principal means of convening a meeting of Reformers at Kirkintilloch on the 3d November 1792; also, of convening another meeting during the same month, at Milltown, parish of Campsie: and farther, "the said Thomas Muir did, in the course of the months of September, October, or November aforesaid, distribute, circulate, or cause to

<sup>1</sup> Among the papers there were none of any consequence. The following were the most important:—

Ten copies of a pamphlet entitled "Proceedings of the Society of United Irishmen of Dublin, printed by order of the Society, 1793."

A printed copy of an Act to Prevent Tumultuous Risings, of the 27th Geo. III.; printed at Dublin, 1787.

A passport from the department of Paris, in favour of citizen Thomas Muir, dated 23d April 1793. Receipt by A. Macdougall to Mr. Muir, for nine hundred livres, for his passage in the cabin of the ship from Havre de Grace to the port of New York. Dated Havre de Grace, 16th May 1793.

Certificate that Thomas Muir had been duly elected one of the members of the Society of United Irishmen of Dublin. Dated 11th January 1793. Signed by Archibald Hamilton Rowan, secretary. Sealed letter, directed—"The Rev. Thomas Fyshe Palmer, Edinburgh."

Passport of the Commissary of the Section of the Tuilleries, in favour of citizen Thomas Muir. Dated 4th May 1793.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Innes was perhaps the richest commoner in Scotland—he left upwards of a million sterling.

be distributed and circulated in the town of Glasgow, Kirkintilloch, Milltown aforesaid, and at Lennoxtown, in the said parish of Campsie, and county of Stirling, or elsewhere, a number of seditious and inflammatory writings or pamphlets, particularly a book or pamphlet entitled ‘The Works of Thomas Paine, Esq.’ etc.” He was likewise charged with having been present at a meeting of the “Convention of Delegates of the Associated Friends of the People,” held in Lawrie’s Room, in James’s Court, Edinburgh ; at which he read “an Address from the Society of United Irishmen in Dublin to the Delegates for promoting a Reform in Parliament,” and proposed that the same should lie on the table, or a vote of thanks, or some acknowledgment be made to those from whom the address had been transmitted.

The witnesses brought forward established the various charges against the prisoner, but they almost unanimously bore testimony to the constitutional mode by which he recommended the people to proceed in their demands for a redress of grievances. Indeed, at this distance of time, and considered apart from that dread of every thing approaching, even in name, to a republic, which the horrors of the French Revolution had inspired, it is not easy to discover from the evidence the precise degree of guilt which could possibly be attached to the prisoner.

Muir had no counsel. He conducted the defence himself. His appearance at the bar has been variously represented. By those of opposite politics (and there are several gentlemen yet alive—1837—who witnessed his trial), he has been described as “a most silly creature, and a pitiful speaker.” The records of the proceedings by no means support this assertion. Without deigning to descend to mere legal quibbling, his conduct of the case does not seem to have been deficient in tact, nor his appeals to the bench and to the jury devoid of eloquence or power. “This is no time for compromise,” said Muir, in his concluding address to the jury. “Why did the Lord Advocate not at once allow that I stand at this bar because I have been the strenuous supporter of parliamentary reform ? Had this been done, and this alone been laid to my charge, I should at once have pled guilty—there would have been no occasion for a trial ; and their lordships and you would have been spared the lassitude of so long an attendance. But what sort of guilt would it have been ? I have been doing that which has been done by the first characters in the nation. I appeal to the venerable name of Locke, and of the great oracle of the English law, Judge Blackstone. But why need I refer to writers who are now no more ? The Prime Minister of the country, Mr. Pitt himself—the Commander-in-Chief of the army, the Duke of Richmond—have once been the strenuous advocates of reform ; and yet they have been admitted into the King’s counsel. Are they then criminal as I am ? But it is needless, gentlemen, to carry you beyond the walls of this house. The Lord Advocate (Robert Dundas, Esq.) himself has been a Reformer, and sat as a delegate from one of the counties for the purpose of extending the elective franchise.” The concluding words of Muir were—“I may be confined within the walls of a prison—I may even have to mount the

scaffold—but never can I be deprived or be ashamed of the records of my past life."

A verdict of guilty was returned by the jury, and sentence followed, transporting the prisoner beyond seas for the period of fourteen years.

Mr. Muir was detained in prison till the 15th of October, when he was conveyed on board the *Royal George* excise yacht, Captain Ogilvie, lying in Leith Roads for London. In the same vessel were sent the following convicts:—John Grant, convicted of forgery at Inverness; John Stirling, concerned in robbing Nellfield House; — Bauchope, for stealing watches; and James Mackay, who had been condemned to death for street robbery. The feeling of degradation which Muir must have experienced in being thus classed with thieves and robbers was in some degree alleviated by the presence of the Rev. Thomas Fyshe Palmer, who had been tried on the 12th September previous, for publishing a political address written by George Mealmaker.

Immediately on the arrival of the prisoners in the Thames they were put on board the hulks, where they were detained so long that Skirving and Margarot were in time to be shipped in the same transport for New South Wales.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The following lines, written by the author on board the transport that was about to carry him into exile, independent of their poetical merit, are rendered interesting from the circumstances under which they were penned :—

“*Surprise Transport, Portsmouth,*  
“*March 12, 1794.*

“ TO MR. MOFFAT, WITH A GOLD WATCH AND CHAIN FROM MR. MUIR.

“ This gift, this little gift, with heart sincere,  
An exile, wafted from his native land,  
To friendship tried, bequeaths with many a tear,  
Whilst the dire bark still lingers on the strand.

“ These sorrows stream from no ignoble cause ;  
I weep not o'er my own peculiar wrong,—  
Say, when approving conscience yields applause,  
Should private sorrow claim the votive song ?

“ But, ah ! I mark the rolling cloud from far,  
Collect the dark'ning horrors of the storm ;  
And, lo ! I see the frantic fiend of war,  
With civil blood, the civil field deform.

“ Roll on, ye years of grief, your fated course !  
Roll on, ye years of agony and blood !  
But, ah ! of civil rage, when dried the source,  
From partial evil spring up general good.

“ Alas ! my Moffat, from the dismal shore  
Of cheerless exile, when I slow return,  
What solemn ruins must I then deplore ?  
What awful desolation shall I mourn ?

“ Paternal mansion ! mouldering in decay,  
Thy close-barred gate may give no welcome kind ;  
Another lord, as lingering in delay,  
May harshly cry—another mansion find.

At Sydney they were treated by Governor Hunter (a Scotsman) with all the humanity in his power. Here Muir purchased a piece of land, and busied himself in its improvement; while in the society of his exiled companions, he enjoyed as much happiness as the peculiarity of his situation would permit. After remaining in the "distant land of exile" nearly two years, he found means to escape in an American vessel (*the Otter*) which had been fitted out at New York by some individuals, for the purpose of aiding him in his escape, and which had anchored at Sydney for the ostensible purpose of taking in wood and water. With the *Otter* he sailed for the United States; but, unfortunately, having occasion to touch at Nootka Sound, he found that a British sloop-of-war had unexpectedly arrived a short time before; and as this vessel had only left Sydney a day or two previous to the *Otter*, Muir deemed it prudent to go on shore—preferring to travel over the whole American continent to the risk of detection.

After many hardships he at length found a passage on board a Spanish frigate bound for Cadiz; but Spain being then leagued with the Republic of France, on arriving off the port of Cadiz, the frigate was attacked by a British man-of-war. A desperate engagement ensued, in which Muir is said to have fought with great bravery, and was severely wounded. On the surrender of the frigate he was concealed on board for six days, and then sent on shore with the other wounded prisoners. In a letter from Cadiz, dated 14th August 1797, he thus describes his situation:—"Contrary to my expectation, I am at last nearly cured of my numerous wounds. The Directory have shown me great kindness. Their solicitude for an unfortunate being, who has been so cruelly oppressed, is a balm of consolation which revives my drooping spirits. The Spaniards detain me as a prisoner, because I am a Scotsman; but I have

" And oh, my Moffat ! whither shall I roam ?  
 Flow, flow, ye tears ! perhaps the funeral bier ;  
 No—flourish Hope—from thee I ask a home,—  
 Thy gentle hand shall wipe an exile's tear.

" Yes, we shall weep o'er each lamented grave  
 Of those who joined us in stern Freedom's cause ;  
 And, as the moisten'd turf our tears shall lave,  
 These tears shall Freedom honour with applause.

" I soon shall join the dim aerial band,—  
 This stream of life has little time to flow.  
 Oh ! if my dying eyes thy soothing hand  
 Should close—enough—'tis all I ask below.

" This little relic, Moffat, I bequeath  
 While life remains, of friendship, just and pure,—  
 This little pledge of love, surviving death,  
 Friendship immortal, and re-union sure.

" THOMAS MUIR."

Mr. William Moffat, to whom this flattering mark of esteem is addressed, resided in Edinburgh. He was admitted a Solicitor in 1791, and was the legal agent of Mr. Muir. His son, Mr. Thomas Muir Moffat, is named after the Reformer.





KAY. 1789

KNIGH T of the ·TURF

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no doubt that the intervention of the Directory of the great Republic will obtain my liberty. Remember me most affectionately to all my friends, who are the friends of liberty and of mankind."

Muir was not disappointed in the sincerity of the French Directory, at whose request he was delivered up by the Spanish authorities. On entering France he was warmly hailed by the people; and in Paris he received every mark of respect from the government. He did not, however, live long to enjoy the liberty which it had cost him such peril to obtain. The seeds of a decline had been sown in his constitution before his departure from Scotland; and the many fatigues which he had subsequently undergone, together with the wounds he had received in the action, proved too complicated and powerful to be resisted. He died at Chantilly, near Paris, on the 27th September 1798, where he was interred, with every mark of respect, by the public authorities.

#### No. CXXVI.

#### SIR ARCHIBALD HOPE OF PINKIE, BART.

THIS gentleman, who has been dubbed by the artist a "Knight of the Turf," was the ninth baronet of Craighall—the original designation of the family.<sup>1</sup> He was grandson to Sir Thomas, a distinguished member of the College of Justice, and one of the early promoters of agricultural improvements in Scotland. By his skill in this latter department, the Meadows, now one of the pleasantest and most frequented walks about Edinburgh, was converted from its original marshy and waste condition into a state of high cultivation. In commemoration of this circumstance, it obtained the name of "Hope Park;" but it is still generally known as "The Meadows."

SIR ARCHIBALD, who succeeded to the title on the death of his grandfather in 1771, does not appear to have been ambitious of obtaining distinction either at the bar or in the senate; and the only public situation which he ever held was that of Secretary to the Board of Police, to which he had been appointed for life; and, on its abolition, received a compensation in lieu of the office.

On his own estate, and throughout the neighbourhood, he supported the character of a country gentleman, more intent on improving his lands than desirous of engaging in those political and party animosities which so much distract the harmony of society, and retard the progress of substantial national improvement. On his property he established extensive salt and coal works, from which he derived very considerable emolument, and which still continue

<sup>1</sup> The Hopes of Craighall are the stem from which has sprung the noble family of Hopetoun, noticed in a preceding part of this work. The designation of Craighall was laid aside by Lord Rankeillor, son of the second baronet, who had been knighted by the title of Sir Archibald Hope of that Ilk.

the source of much wealth ; and, by his judicious management, he otherwise greatly enhanced the value of his estate.

Sir Archibald took an active hand in superintending his numerous colliers and salters. They were a rough, uncultivated set of people ; and, like most workmen in similar employments, not very deeply impressed with proper notions of subordination. He had his own system of management, however ; and, although not strictly in accordance with the principles of constitutional government, it proved not less efficacious than it was summary in its application. He required no sheriff or justice courts to settle matters of dispute. Armed with his jockey-whip, Sir Archibald united in his own person all the functionaries of justice ; and, wherever his presence was required, he was instantly on the spot. On several occasions, when, by the example and advice of neighbouring works, his men were in mutiny, he has been known to go down to the pits, and, with whip in hand, lay about him, right and left, until order was restored. The work would then go on as formerly—the men as cheerful and compliant as if nothing untoward had occurred. Upon the whole, his people were happy and contented ; and although the means which he took to enforce obedience were somewhat arbitrary, his subjects felt little inclination to object to them.

Although much of his time was thus devoted to his own affairs, public matters of local interest received a due share of his attention ; and on every occasion of a patriotic or charitable nature he stepped nobly forward with his counsel and assistance.

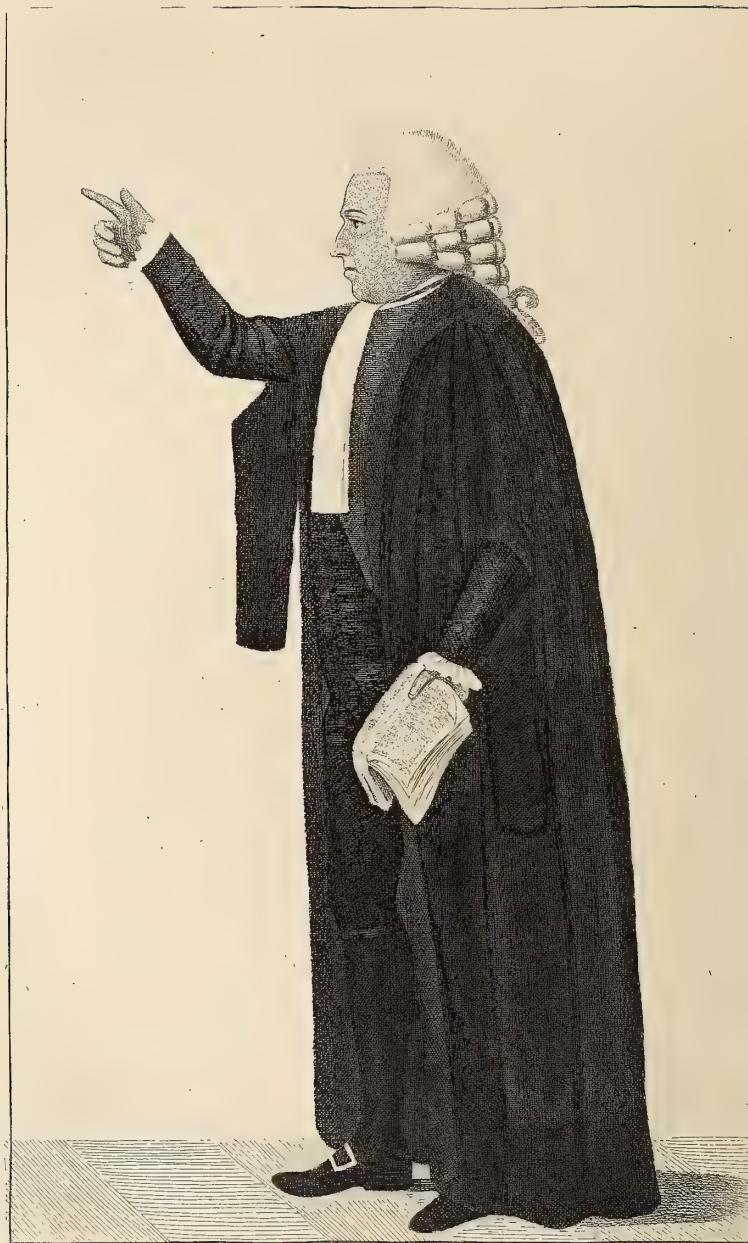
Sir Archibald resided chiefly at Pinkie House,<sup>1</sup> where he maintained the genuine hospitality of the olden times, and kept such an establishment of “neighing steeds” and “deep-mouthed hounds” as at once declared the owner to be, in sentiment, one of those doughty “squires of old” whose masculine ideas of enjoyment were widely at variance with the effeminacy attributed to the luxurious landholders of more modern times.

As might be anticipated from his character, Sir Archibald was a member of the Caledonian Hunt—a body of Scottish gentlemen well known to be somewhat exclusive in the admission of members. Of this honourable club he held the high distinction of President in 1789, at which period the etching of the “Knight of the Turf” was executed.

Sir Archibald married, in 1758, Elizabeth, daughter of William McDowall, Esq. of Castle Semple, by whom he had two sons and five daughters. On the death of this lady in 1778, he married (the year following) Elizabeth, daughter of John Patoun, Esq.—a gentleman whose name was originally Paton ; but who, having gone abroad in his youth, and amassed a large fortune, on his return to his native country changed the spelling of it to *Patoun*. The issue of this second marriage were three sons and one daughter.

<sup>1</sup> In former times the seat of the Earls of Dunfermline—a branch of the Setons, who had large possessions in the east country, which were forfeited by the attainer of the last Earl of Winton—the chief of the family—for his accession to the Rebellion in 1715.





Sir Archibald died at Pinkie House on the 1st of June 1794. He was succeeded by his second son of the first marriage ; on whose death, in 1801, without issue, John, eldest son of the second marriage, became the eleventh baronet.

## No. CXXVII.

## ROBERT BLAIR, ESQ.,

SOLICITOR-GENERAL, AND AFTERWARDS LORD PRESIDENT OF THE  
COURT OF SESSION.

AMONGST the many eminent persons who have attained celebrity as Senators of the College of Justice, the late LORD PRESIDENT BLAIR<sup>1</sup> occupies a distinguished place. His father was the Rev. Robert Blair, minister of Atholstaneford, in East Lothian, author of "The Grave," and male representative of the ancient family of Blair in Ayrshire. He married Isabella Law, daughter of William Law, Esq. of Elvingston, East Lothian.<sup>2</sup> The third son—the subject of our sketch—was born in 1741. His elder brothers were destined to mercantile pursuits, but Robert was educated for the legal profession.

He commenced his studies at the High School of Edinburgh, and from thence was transferred to the University, where he formed friendships which subsequently materially aided him in his progress through life. In particular he commenced an intimacy with Henry Dundas, afterwards Lord Melville, which only terminated with their lives. Mr. Blair was a year younger than his friend Lord Melville. The latter was admitted a member of the Faculty of Advocates in 1763, and the former the following year.

This adoption of a profession in which so many fail of success was considered at least a bold if not an inconsiderate choice, by a young man without fortune ; but the extended practice, which his talents almost instantaneously commanded, dispelled the apprehensions of his friends. Blair rapidly rose to eminence as a lawyer ; and in most cases of importance was retained as a leading counsel. The celebrated Henry Erskine and he were generally pitted against each other, as the two most eloquent as well as able members of the bar. However much Erskine might surpass his opponent in witty observation or ingenious remark, Blair was infinitely his superior as a clear reasoner and sound lawyer.

Mr. Blair was for several years one of the Assessors of the city of Edinburgh,

<sup>1</sup> The prefixed full-length portrait, done in 1793, represents the Solicitor-General a few years after his appointment.

<sup>2</sup> This lady was sister of Mr. Law of Elvingston, who was Sheriff of Haddington for fifty years ; and, during that long period, was never known to be absent on a court day, either from sickness or any other cause.

and an Advocate-depute. In 1789 he was appointed Solicitor-General for Scotland ; and in 1801 was unanimously elected Dean of the Faculty of Advocates.<sup>1</sup>

## No. CXXVIII.

## ROBERT BLAIR, ESQ.,

SOLICITOR-GENERAL.

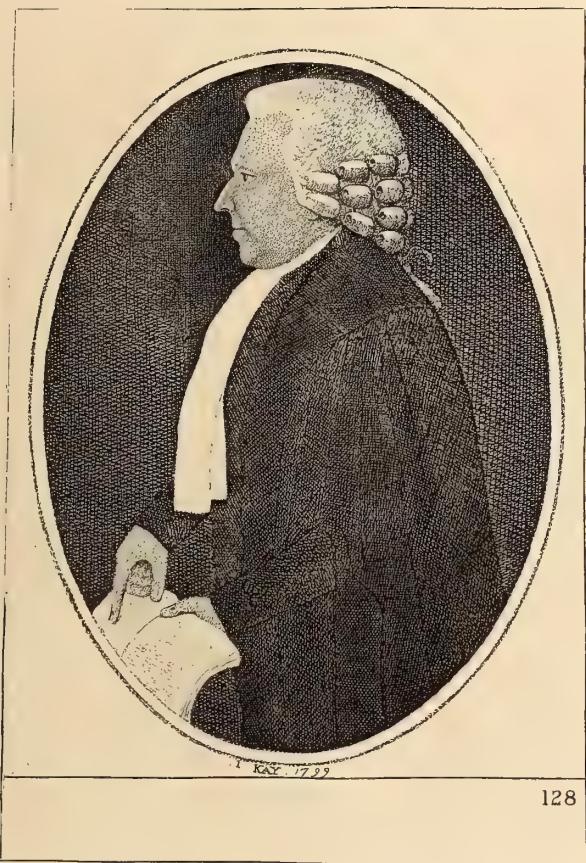
THIS Print of MR. BLAIR was done in 1799, and represents him nearly in a similar position to the former. It seems to have been executed with the view of completing a series of Portraits of those gentlemen who filled the bench at the close of last century.

On the change of ministry which took place in 1806, Mr. Blair was removed from the solicitorship ; on which event he received a polite apology from the new minister, stating the necessity he was under of promoting his own party. This communication—no doubt dictated by good feeling—was perfectly unnecessary, in so far as the feelings of the ex-solicitor were concerned. Then, as now, a change in the crown officers invariably succeeded a change in the cabinet. The friends of either party were therefore prepared to rise or fall as the scale preponderated. Far from being out of temper with this turn of the political wheel, Mr. Blair showed his magnanimity by proffering to his successor—John Clerk, afterwards Lord Eldin—the use of his gown, until the latter should get one prepared for himself.

On the return of his friends to power next year, Mr. Blair was offered the restoration of his former honour ; but he declined not only this, but also the higher office of Lord Advocate. In 1808, on the resignation of Sir Ilay Campbell, he was raised to the Presidency of the College of Justice—a choice which gave satisfaction to all parties.

During the short period that his lordship discharged the duties of this high trust, his conduct as a judge realised the expectations formed from a knowledge of his abilities at the bar. In his character were not only blended those native qualities of mind which, aided by the acquirements of study, combine to constitute superior talent, but he brought with him to the bench that “innate love of justice and abhorrence of iniquity, without which, as he himself emphatically declared, when he took the chair of the Court, all other qualities avail nothing, or rather are worse than nothing.”

<sup>1</sup> His election of Dean was without a single dissentient voice, save that of Mr. Wilde, who cried out—“Harry Erskine for ever !” When the intelligence was communicated to Mr. Blair, his own words were—“Nothing gives me more pleasure than the fact that those opposed to me in politics were the first to vote in my favour.”



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In *Peter's Letters to his Kinsfolk* the character of the Lord President is thus sketched :—“ It would appear as if the whole of his clear and commanding intellect had been framed and tempered in such a way as to qualify him peculiarly and expressly for being what the Stagyrite has finely called ‘ a living equity ’—one of the happiest, and perhaps one of the rarest, of all the combinations of mental powers. By all men of all parties the merits of this great man also were alike acknowledged ; and his memory is at this moment alike held in reverence by them all. Even the keenest of his now surviving political opponents (the late Lord Eldin)—himself one of the greatest lawyers that Scotland ever has produced—is said to have contemplated the superior intellect of Blair with a feeling of respectfulness not much akin to the common cast of his disposition. After hearing the President overturn, without an effort, in the course of a few clear and short sentences, a whole mass of ingenious sophistry, which it had cost himself much labour to erect, and which appeared to be regarded as insurmountable by all the rest of his audience, this great barrister is said to have sat for a few seconds ruminating with much bitterness on the discomfiture of his cause, and then to have muttered between his teeth—‘ My man ! God Almighty spared nae pains when he made your brains ! ’ Those that have seen Mr. Clerk, and know his peculiarities, appreciate the value of this compliment, and do not think the less of it because of its coarseness.”

The Lord President did not long enjoy that dignity which he gave such promise of rendering equally honourable to himself and beneficial to his country. He died suddenly on the 20th May 1811, aged sixty-eight ; and it is not a little remarkable, that the very same week terminated the life of his early and steady friend Lord Melville, who, as has been elsewhere mentioned, had come to Edinburgh to the President’s funeral. The death of these two very eminent men, as it were by one blow, was looked upon as a national calamity. Their early friendship—their dying almost at the same period<sup>1</sup>—and the high and important stations which they had occupied as public men, naturally created a more than ordinary interest on the occasion of their demise. In a *Monody*,<sup>2</sup> by an anonymous author, who has drawn the characters of Lord Melville and President Blair with tolerable ability, their friendship and death are thus alluded to :—

“ Two mighty oaks that, side by side,  
For ages towered, the forest’s pride,  
And nourished in their shade,  
Sapling and tree, and waving wood ;  
On whose broad breast October’s flood,  
And winter’s war, and whirlwind rude,  
Their baffled might essayed.

<sup>1</sup> Their houses being next to one another, with only a single wall between the bed-rooms, where the dead bodies of each were lying at the same time, made a deep impression on their friends.

<sup>2</sup> This volume, published in 4to at 4s., is entitled “ Monody on the Death of the Right Hon. Henry Lord Viscount Melville, and of the Right Hon. Robert Blair of Avontoun, Lord President of the College of Justice.” Edinburgh, 1811.

“ Their massy boughs, compact on high,  
 Seasons with all their storms defy—  
 While some scant brook that oozes by,  
 Unheeded and unknown,  
 Slow on each hidden fibre preys—  
 Loosens amain the earth-fast base ;  
 And far the forest wonder lays,  
 A thundering ruin prone !

“ Thus, thus, lamented chiefs ! ye fell  
 From glory’s loftiest pinnacle,  
 By destiny severe :  
 Ere, tranced in sorrow, we had paid  
 Due rites to Blair’s illustrious shade,  
 With heart-struck woe we hung dismay’d  
 O’er Melville’s honoured bier.”

As a memorial of respect to his high talents, and to mark the estimation in which he was held, a statue of the Lord President Blair, by Chantrey, is placed in the First Division of the Inner-House of the Court of Session.

Mr. Blair married Isabella Cornelia Halkett, youngest daughter of Colonel Charles Craigie Halkett of Lawhill, Fifeshire. He left one son and three daughters—one of whom was the wife of Alexander Maconochie, Lord Meadowbank, one of the Senators of the College of Justice, and a Lord of Justiciary.

About twenty years previous to his lordship’s death he purchased the small estate of Avontoun, near Linlithgow, beautifully situated, and which continued always to be his favourite residence. He took great pleasure in agricultural improvements, and brought it to the highest state of cultivation. The town residence of the family in 1773 was upon the north side of the passage between Brown and Argyle Squares.<sup>1</sup>

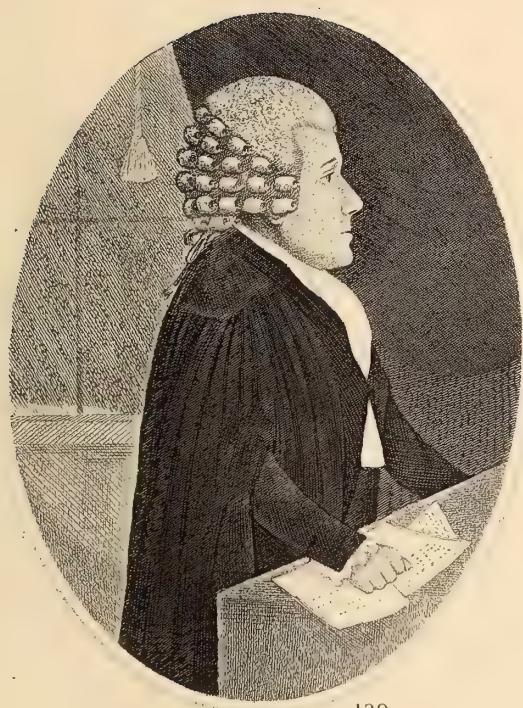
#### No. CXXIX.

### THE HON. ROBERT DUNDAS OF ARNISTON,

LORD ADVOCATE OF SCOTLAND.

THIS gentleman has already been amply noticed in No. XLVIII. The likeness of him there given was done in 1790, immediately subsequent to his having been appointed Lord Advocate of Scotland. The present Portrait was executed nine years later, and represents him, while he still held that office, in the attitude of addressing the bench.

<sup>1</sup> The house was purchased by Mr. Blair from the Dutch ladies, the Miss Crawfords.



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L. KAY inv. et fecit

*The Evening Walk*  
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## CXXX.

## CAPTAIN JAMES JUSTICE OF JUSTICE HALL,

AND

## A LADY IN THE COSTUME OF 1790.

SIR JAMES JUSTICE, descended from a family of that name in England, came to Scotland about the end of the seventeenth century, and held the office of Clerk to the Scottish Parliament. He acquired the estate of Crichton, with the celebrated castle, in the county of Edinburgh, which he left to his son, James Justice, Esq., who was one of the principal Clerks of the Court of Session. This gentleman was very fond of horticulture ; and was the author of a book entitled “*Justice’s Scots Gardener*”—a work which, as the result of practical experience with reference to the soil and climate of Scotland, was formerly in great repute, and is still worthy of consultation. The author was so great an enthusiast in this favourite pursuit, that he spent large sums in importing foreign seeds, roots, and trees. The collecting of tulips being one of the fancies of his day, Mr. Justice was so deeply affected with the mania, that he has been known not to hesitate giving £50, or sometimes more,<sup>1</sup> for a single rare tulip root. The extravagance of this propensity, with other causes, rendered it necessary for him to part with his estate of Crichton ; and about the year 1735 it became the property of Mark Pringle, Esq.<sup>2</sup> With the residue of the price of this large property Mr. Justice purchased some lands in the vicinity of the village of Ugston, or Oxton, in the parish of Channelkirk and county of Berwick, where he built a mansion-house, which he called Justice Hall—a name which it still retains.

By his second marriage Mr. Justice left an only son (the subject of the Print), who was born about the year 1755 ; but at what period he succeeded his father is not exactly known. He entered the army as an officer in the marine service ; served abroad during the American war, and attained the rank of Captain. He was above six feet in height and well proportioned. His

<sup>1</sup> The rage for tulips was, for a long series of years, peculiar to the Dutch, who used to give very large prices for single roots of a rare description. For a short period it was very prevalent in Britain, where a gentleman is reported to have given a thousand pounds for a *black* tulip—he being at the time the owner of another root of the same description. Upon making the purchase he put the root below his heel and destroyed it, observing that *now* he was the possessor of the *only* black tulip in the world !!!

<sup>2</sup> This gentleman killed William Scott of Raeburn, great grand-uncle of Sir Walter, in a duel. They fought with swords, as was the fashion of the time, in a field near Selkirk, called, from the catastrophe, the Raeburn Meadow. Mr. Pringle fled to Spain, and was long a captive and slave in Barbary.—*Lockhart’s Life of Scott*, p. 4, vol. i.

address was peculiarly agreeable and fascinating ; and both in appearance and manner he bore no slight resemblance to George IV.

The Captain inherited little of his father's enthusiasm for horticulture, being more enamoured with the "flowers of literature." He was exceedingly fond of the drama, and was one of the best performers at the private theatricals at Marrionville (alluded to in our notice of Captain Macrae). His genius in this line was rather imitative than original, and his delineations of Cook, Kemble, and other eminent actors of his time, were very successful. Had his talents for the stage been cultivated, with the advantage of his fine personal appearance, it is possible he might have made a distinguished figure, and perhaps retrieved the fortunes of his family. Besides indulging his friends with declamations from Shakspeare, and other popular dramatic poets, he occasionally contributed to their amusement by writing plays;<sup>1</sup> and we are assured that his compositions possessed some merit.

The Captain's love for the drama continued long to hold undiminished ascendancy in his bosom, and was the occasion of his not unfrequently patronising the humblest as well as the highest in the profession. While in Edinburgh he was regular in his attendance at the Theatre ; and no worn-out son of Thespis ever visited Justice Hall without experiencing the hospitality of the owner. A gentleman of our acquaintance happening to call on the Captain one forenoon, was astonished to find him in his parlour, surrounded by a company of strolling players, who, on one of their migratory excursions, had called at Justice Hall, in the certainty of obtaining—what they probably had not known for some time before—an hour or two of comfortable entertainment. The wine was in free circulation ; and the players, in merry tune, were repaying their host with speech and mimicry, in every variety of imitation, from the majestic Cato to the versatile Sylvester Daggerwood.

The Captain was at this period perhaps less choice than formerly in the selection of his amusements, and of the means which might contribute to them. He had been married to a Miss Campbell, by whom he had one child—a daughter ; but the union proved unhappy, and a separation was the consequence. When disputes of this nature occur, it is a generally received maxim that there must be faults on both sides ; and, in this instance, we are not prepared to assert the contrary. The Captain was undoubtedly one of the most kind-hearted mortals in existence ; but it is possible he might lack other qualities necessary to the growth of domestic happiness. There was at least a degree of eccentricity in his character not exactly suited for matrimonial felicity.

Shortly after this unfortunate separation a friend of his, accompanied by an acquaintance, went to visit him at Justice Hall. They found the Captain just returned from a solitary stroll in the fields, and a little in deshabille. He apologised for his appearance ; and, on the stranger being introduced to him,

<sup>1</sup> One of these was entitled "Hell upon Earth, or the Miseries of Matrimony," and is said to have contained many scenes indicative of the Captain's personal experience on the subject.

"O," said he, in his usual voluble manner, "know your father well—not at all like him; no doubt of your mother—but—pshaw!—never mind. Welcome to Bachelor's Hall: 'tis Bachelor's Hall now, you know—Mrs. Justice has left me—no matter—she was a good sort of person for all that—a little hot-tempered—only three days after marriage, a leg of mutton made to fly at my head; never mind—plenty of wine, eggs, at Bachelor's Hall—we can make ourselves merry."<sup>1</sup>

When Captain Justice's father, as already stated, sold the estate of Crichton to Mr. Pringle, a clause had been inserted in the deed of conveyance, by which the seller guaranteed (or, according to Scotch law phraseology, warranted) the purchaser and his successors against all augmentations of stipend which the clergyman of the parish might obtain subsequent to the date of the sale; probably not anticipating that the practice of granting augmentation to the stipends of the clergy would be extended as it has been done. In process of time various augmentations of stipend were obtained by the incumbents of the parish of Crichton. The proprietors of the estate of Crichton called upon Captain Justice, as representing the grantee of the disposition or deed of conveyance, to relieve them from the share of increased stipend thus allocated upon them. This gave rise to a long and expensive lawsuit, in which Captain Justice argued that the warrandice which his father had given was not perpetual, but limited to the endurance of certain leases of teinds originally granted by Mr. Hepburn of Humbie, which had long since expired; and the Court of Session decided the cause in favour of Captain Justice. An appeal, however, was taken to the House of Lords, and the judgment was reversed, by which a liability of upwards of £9000 was created against Captain Justice and his estate.

The Captain, who had borne with great fortitude the vexations of this protracted litigation, submitted to the fatal effect of it on his means and estate with astonishing resignation. The estate, in fulfilment of the decree of the House of Lords, was adjudged for payment of this debt, and was sold in lots to different purchasers. The unfortunate owner, unable to dwell longer even in the frugal manner in which he had done in the house of his father, rather than remove to some other part of the country, which his friends advised him to do, resolved to end his days, if not *in*, at least *within* sight of his old "dear home;" and he accordingly took up his abode in a cottage in the adjoining village of Ugston, where he lived a season or two.

The "fair one" in whose company the artist has thought proper to place Captain Justice, in "The Evening Walk," was at one time well known in the *beau monde* of Princes Street. The lady may be remembered by those who

<sup>1</sup> The lady and her daughter survived the unfortunate Laird of Justice Hall. The former, we believe, died unmarried. The latter was respectably married, and through her mother fell heir to a considerable fortune.

recollect the sympathy pretty generally excited by the fate of her accomplished daughter, who fell a victim to the arts of one whom a sense of gratitude and honour should have induced to have acted otherwise.

## No. CXXXI.

## ANDREW DALZIEL, A.M., F.R.S.,

PROFESSOR OF GREEK IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

THE title given to the Portraiture of this gentleman has reference to the memorable struggle for the office of Clerk to the General Assembly, which occurred in 1789. His opponent, Dr. Carlyle of Inveresk (who has already been noticed in a preceding part of this work), was supported by the Moderate or Government party, and Mr. Dalziel by the popular, or, as they were then called, "the Wild Party."

After a keen discussion—on an amendment proposed by Henry Erskine (then Dean of Faculty), that the election should proceed under the proviso of a retrospective scrutiny of the votes, which was carried in the affirmative—the two candidates were then put in nomination, viz. "Dr. Carlyle, proposed by Dr Gerard of Aberdeen and the Solicitor-General; and Professor Dalziel, proposed by Dr. Bryce of Johnston and the Dean of Faculty; and the vote having been put, it carried by 145 to 142 (being a majority of three) in favour of Dr. Carlyle. The Moderator (Dr. George Hill) being desired to declare in what manner he would give his casting vote, if, upon a scrutiny, there should appear an equality of votes, declared that he gave his vote for Dr. Carlyle.

"The Dean of Faculty then moved for a committee of scrutiny in behalf of Professor Dalziel; and Principal Davidson made the same demand on the part of Dr. Carlyle. A committee was accordingly named, consisting of ten members on each side, together with the Moderator; after which the roll of the Assembly, marked agreeably to the amendment, was sealed up, upon the motion of the Dean of Faculty.

"Dr. Carlyle took his place and the oath as Clerk, and addressed the Assembly in a short speech, thanking them for the honour they had conferred upon him; and declaring that he reckoned it the chief glory of his life to have always stood forward in defence of the Church of Scotland against *fanaticism*.<sup>1</sup>

"No less than 287 members voted on this occasion. The Assembly consists in all of 364; and, it is said, the greatest number ever known to have voted before this time was 221."

<sup>1</sup> This expression did not escape the observation of Kay.



*The Successful Candidate*

K fecit 1789  
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Such is a brief account of the election ; but when the scrutiny had been entered into, the precaution of the Dean of Faculty was found to have been highly judicious. On finding himself in a minority, Dr. Carlyle wisely withdrew his claim before the report of the committee was presented. Professor Dalziel was thereupon declared the “successful candidate.”

PROFESSOR ANDREW DALZIEL was the son of respectable, although not wealthy parents. His father was a wright, or carpenter, at the village of Kirkliston, in Linlithgowshire. He was born in 1742, and educated at the school of the village. Dr. Drysdale was at that time minister of Kirkliston ; and, fortunately for the young scholar, took much interest in his progress, by assisting and directing him in his studies.

In course of time young Dalziel entered the University of Edinburgh ; where, with a view to the ministry, he studied with much success, and acquired a classical as well as theological education. In the Divinity Hall he is known to have delivered the prescribed course of lectures to the satisfaction of Professor Hamilton ; but it does not appear that he ever was licensed. About this time he was fortunately appointed tutor to Lord Maitland (Earl of Lauderdale), with whom he travelled to Paris, and pleased his pupil’s father so much, that, shortly after his return from France, the Earl resolved to use his influence with the Town Council of Edinburgh to procure his election to the Greek chair, then vacant by the death of Professor Robert Hunter. Among other obstacles in the way of his preferment, some of the Council favoured another candidate, Mr. Duke Gordon, afterwards well known for many years as under-librarian of the College.<sup>1</sup> The interest of the Earl of Lauderdale, however, prevailed ; and Dalziel was appointed to the Greek chair in 1773.

The enthusiastic manner in which the young Professor immediately set about discharging the duties of the chair justified the choice which had been made.

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Duke Gordon was the son of a linen manufacturer, and born in the Potterrow, Edinburgh. His father was a native of Huntly—a Jacobite—and a thorough clansman. Hence, in testimony of his respect to the head of the clan, his son was called *Duke* Gordon. Duke (who abhorred the name) was educated at a school kept in the Cowgate by Mr. Andrew Waddell—a nonjurant—who had “been out in the forty-five,” and was of course patronised by all his Jacobitical friends. Duke Gordon made great progress under Mr. Waddell ; and, although compelled to follow his father’s profession for several years, had imbibed such a desire for languages, that he contrived to prosecute his studies ; and, on the death of the old man, abandoned the manufacture of linen altogether, and devoted himself entirely to literature. He had views to the ministry ; but some peculiar notions which he entertained on theology shut the church doors upon him. In 1763 he was appointed assistant-librarian of the College Library—a situation for which he was peculiarly well qualified by his extensive learning and general literary acquirements. The emoluments of the office being limited, he taught classes at his own house, by which he added considerably to his income. He never was married ; and, such was his frugality, he died in 1802 worth a great deal of money. To three of his particular friends—Professor Dalziel, the Rev. Andrew Johnston, minister of Salton, and Mr. William White, writer in Edinburgh—he conveyed, by his will, all his effects, burdened with a life annuity to his only sister, the wife of a respectable shoemaker, together with several other private legacies. His public bequests were—£500 to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh ; the reversion of a tenement of houses, of nearly the same value, to the poor of the parish of St. Cuthbert’s ; and such of his books to the Library of the University of Edinburgh as the Librarian should think proper to be added to that collection.

In the University of Edinburgh the taste for Grecian literature had been gradually giving way. Besides, the great fame of Professor Moor of the Glasgow College, together with the excellent editions of the Greek classics then issuing from the press of the Foulises, had well-nigh annihilated the reputation of the capital altogether. The enthusiasm and ability of Professor Dalziel, however, imparted new life to the study of classical learning ; and the various improvements which he introduced in his system of tuition, tended in an eminent degree to restore the character of the University, and to draw around him students from the most distant quarters. The elementary class-books he compiled were so well adapted to the object for which they were designed, that they soon found their way into many of the chief schools of England ; and, with certain modifications and improvements, are still very generally in use.

Professor Dalziel was in the habit of delivering a series of lectures to his students on Grecian history, antiquities, literature, philosophy, and the fine arts. These discourses were always well attended, and were deeply interesting even to the youngest of his auditors. "There was a witchery in his address which could prevail alike over sloth and over levity," and never failed to rivet the attention of his hearers.

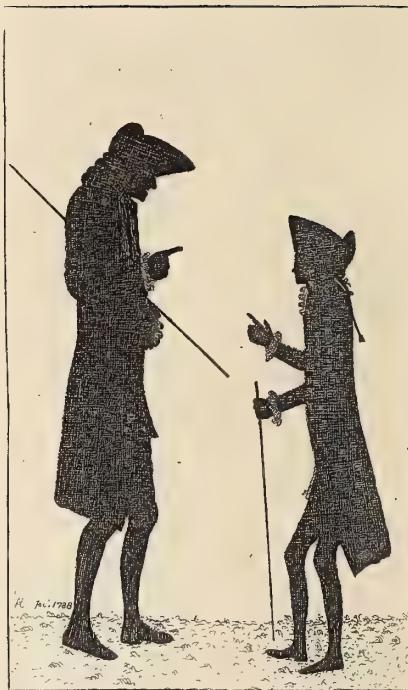
When the Royal Society of Edinburgh was instituted in 1783, Mr. Dalziel was prevailed on to undertake the duties of Secretary to its literary class ; and to his labours while acting in this capacity, the Society is indebted for several able essays and other interesting communications.

On the death of Dr. James Robertson, Professor of Oriental Languages in 1795, Mr. Dalziel, who had been associated with him as conjunct Secretary and Librarian, was appointed Keeper of the College Library, having as his assistant Mr. Duke Gordon, with whom he lived on terms of great intimacy ; and, on whose death, in 1802, he did ample justice to his memory, in an exceedingly well written and very interesting memoir of his life, which he communicated to the Editor of the *Scots Magazine*.

After a lingering illness, Mr. Dalziel died on the 8th December 1806. He was married to a daughter of Dr. Drysdale, his early friend and benefactor—a lady of distinguished accomplishments and sweetness of temper, by whom he had several children.

The personal appearance of Professor Dalziel was prepossessing. In stature he was among the tallest of the middle size ; his complexion was fair ; his aspect mild and interesting ; his eyes were blue, and full of vigorous expression ; and his features plump, without heaviness or grossness. His address was graceful and impressive. He took little exercise ; but when he did walk, his favourite resort was the King's Park. The attitude in which he is portrayed in the Print represents him in one of his rural excursions. During the latter period of his life Mr. Dalziel resided within the College, in the house which had been long occupied by Principal Robertson.





TWO SHADOWS IN CONVERSATION

No. CXXXII.

## TWO SHADOWS.

### LORD KAMES, AND HUGO ARNOT, ESQ.

THIS is a very excellent burlesque representation of these celebrated individuals, who, we need scarcely explain, were equally remarkable for tenuity of person. They have both been already noticed in No. V.; but a few additional particulars may not be deemed uninteresting.

LORD KAMES, so eminent as a judge and an author, was also an amateur agriculturist of considerable reputation; and his “Gentleman Farmer” was long held as a complete *vade-mecum* on the subject of farming. Among other contemplated improvements, he entertained a notion of the practicability of concentrating the essence of manure, so as not only to render the substance more productive, but the mode of application less laborious. Conversing one day with a tenant, and seeing the immense quantity of ordinary manure he was laying on a field, Lord Kames observed that he could make the full of his snuff-box go as far in producing a crop. “Gif ye do that,” said the doubting farmer of the old school, “I’ll engage to carry hame the crap *in my pouch!*”

The favourite, although not very polite, expression of the Judge has already been rendered familiar to the reader. Being on one occasion at Stirling, in his official capacity as a Lord of Justiciary, Kames invited Mr. Doig,<sup>1</sup> a teacher there of deserved reputation, to sup with him. In the company of one so famous as the celebrated Judge, it was natural that the teacher should display his conversational acquirements to the utmost advantage. Old Kames was highly amused by the facetious talents of his guest, and for a time guardedly maintained a proper degree of etiquette; but a fresh sally of pleasantry breaking down all formality, out at last came his familiar expression—“Eh, man, but ye’re a queer b—h!” The pedantry of the teacher was perhaps a little alarmed—“Thank you,” said he, “I’ve often been termed a *dog* (Doig) before; but this is the first time I’ve ever been called a *b—h!*”

When Lord Kames was a young advocate at the bar, the Jesuitical Lord Lovat, who was notorious for his insincerity, had observed his talents; and

<sup>1</sup> “On the 19th of August 1797, Dr. Doig, well known in the literary world, after thirty-seven years’ labour in Stirling, received from the Magistrates and Town Council a handsome pecuniary present; and from some gentlemen, who had formerly been his pupils, a large silver cup, with a classical inscription, expressive of his merits, and of their sense of the benefits which they had reaped from his instructions.”—*Scots Magazine*.

conceiving that he might, in the course of events, become serviceable to his views, resolved upon making him his friend. Lovat then lived in a villa somewhere about the head of Leith Walk, and often observed young Home pass up and down between Edinburgh and Leith. Presuming upon very slight acquaintance, his lordship one day ran out, and, clasping the advocate in his arms, began to administer some of those compliments which he used to call his *weapons*—“My dear Henry,” he cried, “how heartily do I rejoice in this rencotre. How does it come to pass that you never look in upon me? Almost every day I see you go past my windows, as if for the purpose of inflaming me with a more and more passionate desire for your company. Now, you are so fine-looking—so tall, and altogether so delightful in your aspect, that unless you will vouchsafe me some favour, I must absolutely die of unrequited passion.” “My Lord,” cried Home, endeavouring to extricate himself from his admirer’s arms, “this is quite intolerable; I ken very weel I am the coarsest and most black-a-vised b—h in a’ the Court o’ Session. Hae dune—hae dune!” “Well, Henry,” said Lovat, in an altered tone, “you are the first man I have ever met with who had the understanding to withstand flattery.” “My dear Lord,” said Home, swallowing the compliment with avidity, and returning the embrace, “I am rejoiced to hear you say so.”

The following anecdote is told of the other “shadow,” HUGO ARNOT, and Mr. Hill, afterwards Professor of Humanity (Latin), who was then tutor to the Lord Justice-Clerk’s son. Arnot met him returning from the Grassmarket on one occasion when three men were executed there, and inquiring where he had been, Mr. Hill replied that “he had been seeing the execution.” “What!” said Hugo, “you, George Hill, candidate for the Professor’s chair of *Humanity*!” “Yes,” said Mr. Hill. “Then, by G—d,” continued the indignant Hugo, “you should rather be Professor of *Barbarity*; and you are sure of the situation, for it is in the gift of my Lord Justice-Clerk!”

Mr. Arnot’s celebrated “Essay on Nothing,” so full of quaint humour itself, and the subject of several good sayings by his contemporaries, is now, perhaps, only familiar in name to the generality of readers. As a specimen of the *nervous* style of the author, the following quotation from the preface may not be unamusing:—“I do not communicate this treatise,” says Hugo, “to promote *directly* piety, morality, meekness, moderation, candour, sympathy, liberality, knowledge, or truth; but *indirectly*, by attempting to expose and to lash pride, pedantry, violence, persecution, affectation, ignorance, impudence, absurdity, falsehood, and vice. Besides the stilts of Preface and Dedication, I intended to have procured some commendatory verses, which may be called ‘Passports for begging civility and favour from the *Christian reader*.’ But as I know no person living (at least in the British realms), who is endued with any share of poetic fire; and, besides, am persuaded, if there were any such, none of them would be so fool-hardy as to recommend this performance, I hope, instead of these, the reader will accept the following verses, written in praise of

this performance by myself. This practice, I assure him, has by no means novelty to recommend it, although it has not hitherto been openly avowed :—

“Three sages in three learned ages born,  
Three different polished stages did adorn.  
In dreams and prophesies the first excelled ;  
With pies and tarts the next his pages swelled ;  
His high-dressed dishes praised in loud bombast ;  
But I, *In Nothing*, have them all surpass'd.”

The publication of the Essay occasioned the following epigram, by the Hon. Andrew Erskine, brother to the musical Earl of Kelly :—

“To find out where the bent<sup>1</sup> of one's genius lies,  
Oft puzzles the witty, and sometimes the wise ;  
Your discernment in this all true critics must find,  
Since the subject's so pat to your body and mind.”

The Hon. Henry Erskine was once disputing with Arnot about the disposition which the Deity manifests in the Holy Scriptures to pardon the errors of the flesh—the metaphysician insisting for a liberal code, and the wit taking a rather more confined and Calvinistic view of the case. At last, on Arnot avowing his resolution to live in the hope of pardon, Erskine readily conceded that great allowance is made for the *flesh* ; but, affecting to be doubtful in the peculiar case of his friend, he replied—

“Though bawdy and blasphemy may be forgiven,  
To flesh and to blood, by the mercy of Heaven ;  
Yet I've searched the whole Scriptures, and texts I find none,  
Extending that mercy *to skin and to bone*.”

Mr. Arnot's tenuity of person, as a subject of satirical remark, was not entirely confined to the learned. One day as he was standing in Creech, the bookseller's shop, an old woman—a hawker of fish from Musselburgh—came in to purchase a Bible. To quiz the old lady a little, Hugo said he wondered she could trouble her head reading such a nonsensical, old-fashioned book as that. Horror-struck at his blasphemous remark, the old woman eyed Hugo in silence a few seconds, measuring him from head to foot with inexpressible amazement. At length she exclaimed—“Gude hae mercy on us! Wha wad hae thocht that ony human-like cratur wad hae spoken that way. But *you*,” she added, with an expression of the most perfect contempt—“a perfect *atomy!*”

Mr. Arnot was long afflicted with a nervous cough. He came into Creech's shop one day, coughing and wheezing at a tremendous rate. Casting his eye on Mr. Tytler of Woodhouselee, who happened to be present, he observed to him “If I do not soon get quit of this d——d cough, it will carry me off like a *rocket*.” Mr. Tytler replied, “Indeed, Hugo, my man, if you do not mend your manners, you will assuredly take quite a *contrary direction*.”

## No. CXXXIII.

NEIL FERGUSSON, ESQ.,

ADVOCATE,

## AND THE LITTLE POLISH COUNT.

THIS Print represents Mr. Fergusson returning to his carriage, in company with the little Polish Count, from the Parliament House, where he had been showing him the Court of Session, the Advocates' Library, and other objects of interest.

MR. FERGUSSON was a gentleman in considerable practice as a lawyer. He was much distinguished for the urbanity of his manners, and for native goodness of heart. His father, the Rev. Adam Fergusson, minister of Moulin, in Perthshire, who died in 1785 at the advanced age of eighty-one, left four sons. John, the eldest, attained the rank of Captain in the service of the East India Company. His fate was tragical, having been assassinated by an individual of the name of Roache. Captain Fergusson, after a short visit to his friends in Scotland, was accompanied, on his return to India, by his younger brother Adam, who had also obtained an appointment in the service.

While on the passage, Roache, who was likewise in the Company's service, had a quarrel with Captain Fergusson; and in consequence of this and his general bad conduct, was expelled from the Captain's table. Shortly after landing at the Cape of Good Hope, Fergusson was induced, by a false message, to leave his lodgings late at night, and in the darkness was stabbed by Roache before he had time to draw in his own defence. The following statement of this affair was given at the time of its occurrence:—

"Captain Fergusson and Captain Roache were both passengers on board the *Vansittart*, Captain Young, which sailed for India in May 1773. Roache was very quarrelsome, and had differences with most of the passengers. He behaved so ill in particular to Captain Fergusson at Madeira, that Captain Fergusson was under the necessity of calling him out. Roache refused to fight; and, in presence of Mr. Murray, the consul, and other gentlemen, made all the concessions which Captain Fergusson required. Roache's dastardly behaviour on this, as well as on other occasions, made the other gentlemen passengers decline speaking to him; nay, they insisted with Captain Young to forbid him the table, which was done. This excited Roache's revenge against them all; but particularly against Captain Fergusson, which issued in a most cowardly and barbarous assassination. Upon the 4th of September, the very day of the arrival of the ship at the Cape of Good Hope, Roache came ashore, late in the afternoon, after all the other passengers; and, in the dusk of the evening, came skulking about the door of the house where he had learned that Captain Fergusson was lodged; and when it was dark, sent a message to him, in the name of his friend Lieutenant Martin, that he wished to see him immediately at his lodgings. Captain Fergusson went, unsuspecting, defenceless, and



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unguarded ; and, as he turned the corner of the street, was stabbed to the heart by Roache, who stood with his sword ready drawn for the barbarous purpose. He received repeated stabs before he had time to lift even his cane in his defence ; and, when faint with loss of blood, and the many wounds he had received, he attempted to draw his sword, which he had not now strength to guide. Roache seized upon it, broke it, and scrupled not to stab him when falling and disarmed, and instantly made his escape ; availing himself of the darkness which had so much assisted him in the perpetration of this base and inhuman murder. Captain Fergusson received no fewer than nine wounds, and all upon the left side, which must have been received when off his guard. Indeed, it appears from a principal witness, whose evidence was taken by the court of justice at the Cape, that, after Captain Fergusson had drawn his sword, he showed not the least activity or motion, but, in the twinkling of an eye, reeled, and fell to the ground, and expired in a few moments. About six days after the murder, Captain Roache was apprehended in the woods by the peasants of the country, and was instantly racked on the wheel by order of the Governor. In vain he pleaded to be tried by his countrymen, the Governor remarking—‘that a foreigner who violates the law of another country must abide by the penalties awaiting such violation.’ As a proof of which, he pointed out the situation of a Dutchman in England under Roache’s unhappy circumstances.”<sup>1</sup>

Roache was afterwards tried in England ; but, from a deficiency of evidence, the murder could not be substantiated.

Adam, who accompanied Captain Fergusson, died of a fever soon after his arrival in India. James, the second son, was greatly devoted to literary pursuits. He followed no profession, but lived much on the Continent, where he travelled some years with Lord Bruce, son of the Earl of Aylesbury ; and afterwards with the Earl of Morton. He died in middle life at Bath.

NEIL, the third son, and the subject of this sketch, was born in 1750. Having completed his academical studies at the University of St. Andrews, he made choice of the law as a profession ; and, after undergoing the usual preparatory courses, he was admitted to the bar in 1773, where, as we have already mentioned, he practised with equal honour and success. He filled the situation of Sheriff-depute of the county of Fife for several years, and was on the eve of being elevated to the bench, when a fatal disease terminated his valuable life in 1803, to the deep regret of all who knew him.

By his wife, a daughter of Sir George Colquhoun of Tillychewan, he had three sons and three daughters. His widow survived him nine years.

Mr. Fergusson is represented as leading by the hand JOSEPH BORUWLASKI, a Polish Count. In a Memoir of his life, published in 1788,<sup>2</sup> the Count says of himself :—

“ I was born in the environs of Chaliez, the capital of Pekucia, in Polish Russia, in November 1739. My parents were of the middle size ; they had five sons and one daughter ; and by one of those freaks of nature which it is impossible to account for, or perhaps to find another instance of in the annals of the human species, three of these children grew to above the middle stature, whilst the two others, like myself, reached only that of children in general at the age of four or five years.

“ I am the third of this astonishing family. My eldest brother, who at this time is about sixty,

<sup>1</sup> The Cape of Good Hope was then in possession of the Dutch.

<sup>2</sup> Memoirs of the celebrated dwarf, Joseph Boruwlaski, a Polish Gentleman ; containing a faithful and curious account of his Birth, Education, Marriage, Travels, and Voyages. Written by himself. 8vo, 7s. 6d. Becket, &c., to be had likewise of the author, No. 162 Strand.

is near three inches taller than I am ; he has constantly enjoyed a robust constitution, and has still strength and vigour much above his size and age ; he has lived a long time with the Castelane Inowloska, who honours him with her esteem and bounty ; and finding in him ability and sense enough, has entrusted him with the stewardship and management of her affairs.

" My second brother was of a weak and delicate frame ; he died at twenty-six, being at that time five feet ten inches high. Those who came into the world after me were alternately tall and short : among them was a female, who died of the small-pox at the age of twenty-two. She was at that time only two feet two inches high, and to a lovely figure united an admirably well-proportioned shape.

" It was easy to judge, from the very instant of my birth, that I should be extremely short, being at that time only eight inches high ; yet, notwithstanding this diminutive proportion, I was neither weak nor puny : on the contrary, my mother, who suckled me, has often declared that none of her children gave her less trouble. I walked and was able to speak at about the age common to other infants, and my growth was progressively as follows :—At one year, I was 11 inches high, English measure—at three, 1 foot 2 inches—at six, 1 foot 5 inches—at ten, 1 foot 9 inches—at fifteen, 2 feet 1 inch—at twenty, 2 feet 4 inches—at twenty-five, 2 feet 11 inches—at thirty, 3 feet 3 inches. This is the size<sup>1</sup> at which I remained fixed, without having afterwards increased half-a-quarter of an inch ; by which the assertion of some naturalists proves false, viz., that dwarfs grow during all their life-time. If this instance were insufficient, I could cite that of my brother, who, like me, grew till thirty ; and, like me, at that age, ceased to grow taller."

The adventures of Boruwlaski, according to his own account, are romantic and interesting. His family having been ruined, he was taken under the protection of some persons of rank in his own country ; but he lost their favour, when about twenty years of age, by falling in love with, and marrying a young lady of beauty and merit, by whom he had several children, and who accompanied him to Britain.

For some years after his marriage, the Count was chiefly supported by presents from his illustrious friends and patrons, together with an annuity given him by the King of Poland. He also received considerable emolument from the concerts which were set on foot for his benefit at several courts in Germany and elsewhere ; but these resources proving rather precarious, he listened to the joint advice of Sir R. Murray Keith (then British ambassador at Vienna), the Prince de Kaunitz, and the Baron de Breteuil, to pay a visit to England, where they assured him he was likely to meet with the most generous reception ; and he was promised letters of recommendation to the greatest personages at

<sup>1</sup> The Count was taller than many of the dwarfs that had preceded him ; for instance, a very diminutive person thus announces, or causes to be announced, his arrival in Edinburgh in 1735 :—" We are assured, that last week one David Fearn came to town, and has taken up his residence in Kennedy's Close. He was born in the shire of Ross ; aged twenty-six ; is but thirty inches high, yet thirty-five inches round ; has all the human members, only his hands resemble the feet of a seal, and his feet those of a bear ; and can dance a hornpipe to admiration."—But Fearn and Boruwlaski are giants compared to "the remarkable dwarf Baby, who lived and died in the Palace of Stanislaus, at Lunenville." He "was born in France, in 1741, of poor parents, and weighed when born only a pound and a quarter ; he was brought on a plate to be christened, and his cradle was his father's slipper ; his mouth being too little for the nipple, he was suckled by a she-goat : at eighteen months old he began to articulate a few words, and at two years old he could walk alone ; at six years old he was fifteen inches high, and he weighed just thirteen pounds ; he was handsome, however, and well-proportioned, but his faculties were rather smaller than his frame—he could be taught nothing. He was not, however, without anger, and even love influenced him. At sixteen Baby was twenty inches high, and here his growth stopped. Soon after this period old age made terrible havoc on his person ; his strength, his beauty, and his spirits forsook him, and he became as much an object of pity for his deformity as for his diminutiveness. At the age of twenty-two he could scarce walk fifty yards, and soon after died of a fever in extreme old age.

the British court. Accordingly he and his family arrived in London, by the way of France, in 1782. Amongst his recommendatory letters, those to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire procured him their kind and powerful patronage. He was subsequently introduced to the Royal family, from whom he received several distinguished favours. Presents and benefactions being, however, no certain provision for his permanent and comfortable maintenance, the Count naturally became anxious, and at last reluctantly yielded to the representation of his friends, by adopting the resolution of exhibiting himself. This he did, first at one guinea—then at five shillings—and afterwards at half-a-crown.<sup>1</sup>

The acute and sensitive mind of Boruwlaski felt extremely mortified at this humiliating mode of life, although the curiosity of the public proved for several years a source of ample revenue. At the time he published his Memoirs, the novelty had considerably abated; and the fears he entertained of the future were feelingly alluded to in the concluding part of his narrative. Amongst other evils of which he complained, his servant had eloped with trinkets and valuables to a large amount; and the small pension which he enjoyed from the King of Poland had been stopped, in consequence of a report having reached that monarch's ears that he was accumulating a fortune in this country.

When Boruwlaski came to Edinburgh in 1788,<sup>2</sup> he was considered an object of great curiosity, and the peculiar circumstances of his case having excited general sympathy, he was taken notice of by several respectable gentlemen, and among others by Mr. Fergusson, who generously endeavoured by their attentions to sweeten the bitter cup of life to the unfortunate gentleman. It was soon discovered that the Count was a person of cultivated mind, and possessed of high conversational powers. The opportunities of seeing men and manners which his mode of life afforded, and the acuteness which he displayed in the perception of character, rendered the little foreigner an object of peculiar estimation. After undergoing the annoyance of "receiving company," he used

<sup>1</sup> The Count did not, at least in Edinburgh, exhibit himself as a dwarf—indeed his feelings would not have allowed of such a thing—he merely *received company*. He gave a public breakfast, to participate at which the small charge of 3s. 6d. was demanded. The following is a copy of one of his advertisements:—"Dun's Hotel, St. Andrew's Square. On Saturday next, the 1st of August (1788), at twelve o'clock, there will be a public breakfast, for the benefit of Count Boruwlaski; in the course of which the Count will perform some select pieces on the guitar.—Tickets (at 3s. 6d. each) may be had at the hotel, or at the Count's lodgings, No. 4 St. Andrew's Street, where he continues to receive company every day from ten in the morning till three, and from five till nine. Admittance One Shilling—\* \* The Count will positively quit this place on Friday the 7th of August."

<sup>2</sup> In 1784 the Scottish metropolis was honoured by the presence of a lady, who, from the description of her in the subjoined advertisement, would have been an admirable companion for Boruwlaski:—"The Author of Nature is wonderful, even in the least of his works. Just arrived, and to be seen by any number of persons, in a commodious room within the head of Forrester's Wynd, first door and right hand, from eleven o'clock in the morning till eight at night, THE AMAZING WOMAN IN MINIATURE, from Magor in Monmouthshire; who is, beyond contradiction, the most astonishing curiosity sportive nature ever held out to be the admiration of mankind. She is now in the 26th year of her age, and not eighteen pounds weight. A child of two years of age has larger hands and feet; and in fact she is the most extraordinary curiosity ever known, or even heard of in history. We shall say no more of this wonder of nature—let those who may honour her with their visits judge for themselves.—May 26, 1784."

to spend the evenings with those families who were kind enough to receive him into their domestic circle, where he always proved, if not a *great* addition, at least a very pleasing one.

Upon an occasion of this description, when with the family of Mr. Fergusson, the Count having expressed a desire to see how the proceedings were conducted in the Court of Session, his host, in his usual obliging manner, agreed to gratify the Count by calling for him next morning on his way to the Parliament House. Mr. Fergusson was true to his appointment, and the artist having observed the parties, has rendered the circumstance memorable by the foregoing etching, which is remarkable for its correct representation of both individuals.

The Count is still (1837) alive, and resides at Durham, in a pretty cottage on the banks of the Wear, near the Prebend Bridge. Having obtained, through the generosity of several kind friends, a small annuity, he now boards with the Misses Ebdon, the sisters of a minor canon of Durham, and seems much attached to his intelligent landladies.

The celebrated Stephen Kemble, of cumbrous magnitude, was long his next-door neighbour, and their vicinity to each other, as well as congeniality of disposition, soon occasioned constant intercourse and an amusing intimacy betwixt two persons formed by nature in moulds so different.

A nephew of the late Mr. Neil Fergusson happened to visit Count Boruwlaski on the 8th of October 1836, and found him, although then in his 97<sup>th</sup> year, still in tolerable bodily health, and in full possession of all his mental faculties. He recurred with much feeling to the many acts of real friendship which he had experienced from Mr. Fergusson, and spoke with warm gratitude of several other individuals in the Scottish metropolis, whose delicate attentions had served to mitigate the mortifying hardships of his peculiar lot.

While in Edinburgh, Boruwlaski's name, from a similarity in sound, was waggishly converted into *Barrel-of-Whisky*, by which appellation he was generally known.

#### No. CXXXIV.

### DR. ALEXANDER HAMILTON,

PROFESSOR OF MIDWIFERY.

THE Medical School of Edinburgh had been established for a very considerable period of time before it was found necessary to institute a Chair to teach the principles and practice of Midwifery. So early as 1726, Mr. Joseph Gibson had been appointed by the Town Council to give instructions in the art of midwifery; but he appears to have confined his teaching to females



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only.<sup>1</sup> The truth is, that in those days the practice of midwifery was almost solely confined to that sex, as it was only in difficult cases that the assistance of male practitioners was called in ; and hence it very frequently happened that the labour was found to be too far advanced to admit of their aid being of material service, and thus from want of skill, the lives of many mothers and children were lost. The public owe it to the strenuous exertions of Dr. Young (the first Professor of Midwifery in the College of Edinburgh), and of the subject of this memoir, that so few fatal cases occur in this way, in the metropolitan districts of Scotland. Both of these gentlemen were indefatigable in their efforts to impress upon the public the necessity and advantages of all who practised midwifery, both male and female, being regularly instructed in the art. In their days they had very formidable prejudices to encounter. They had not only to contend with the gross ignorance of those who were in established practice, and whose interests were so nearly related to the continuance of the system ; but such was the state of public feeling, that there were many who pretended to the name of philosophers, who encouraged the prejudice. The principal argument upon which they insisted, which happens not to be fact in all cases, was, that nature is the proper midwife. This, combined with certain fastidious notions of delicacy, had the effect of confining the obstetrical art to females. But such has been the gradual improvement of the age in which we live, that we have the highest authority (even that of the present excellent Professor in the University of Edinburgh) for affirming that the public conviction of the utility of the art is so great, that there is now hardly a parish of Scotland the midwife of which has not been regularly taught ; and it may with truth be added, that the propriety and advantage of males practising as accoucheurs is now so generally admitted, as to make it very probable that the employment of females in midwifery may in time be entirely superseded. In three of the four Universities of Scotland there are Professors of Midwifery, viz., in Glasgow, Marischal College, and in Edinburgh, in which city there was established, in 1791, a Lying-in Hospital,<sup>2</sup> under the more immediate patronage of the magistrates, the Lord Provost being President, and the Professor of Midwifery Ordinary Physician.

The prefixed Plate contains a striking likeness of the late DR. ALEXANDER HAMILTON. This gentleman was born in 1739 at Fordoun, near Montrose, where his father, who had been a surgeon in the army during Queen Anne's wars, was established as a medical practitioner. He came to Edinburgh about the year 1758, as assistant to Mr. John Straiton, a surgeon then in extensive practice ; and on that gentleman's death, in 1762, he was urged by a number of respectable families to settle in Edinburgh. He accordingly, on application, was admitted a member of the College of Surgeons in that city, for the Royal College was not incorporated until 1778. Of an active and bustling disposition,

<sup>1</sup> After him Mr. Robert Smith taught the same class for seventeen years.

<sup>2</sup> The Earl of Leven and Melville took a very active part in getting this Hospital established ; and, on the anniversary of its institution, used to dine annually with the Professor.

it was not long before he was elected Deacon of the Incorporation, and consequently became a member of the Town Council. He was at the same time chosen Convener of the Trades.

Intent on the practice of midwifery, he found it necessary to obtain a medical degree as a physician before he could be admitted a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. This he accordingly obtained, having probably applied to the University of St. Andrews. The Royal College was founded in 1681, and according to the charter, every graduate of any of the Scottish Universities has a right to be admitted, upon paying the fees. He was first admitted a licentiate, and at a suitable interval chosen a fellow of the College.

In 1775 Dr. Hamilton published his "Elements of Midwifery," which has gone through several editions, under the title of "Outlines of Midwifery;" and in 1780, he published also a "Treatise on the Management of Female Complaints," adapted to the use of families, which continues to be a popular work. In the same year he was conjoined in the Professorship of Midwifery in the College of Edinburgh with Dr. Thomas Young; and on the death of that gentleman in 1783 he was appointed sole Professor.

Dr. Young and Dr. Hamilton gave alternately three courses of instructions annually to male and female pupils, till the death of the former, when the whole duty devolved upon the latter gentleman. Being now at liberty to adopt any improvement in teaching the class he might judge proper, he set about enlarging the plan of his lectures. His predecessors, though undoubtedly men of abilities, felt themselves narrowed in the sphere of their exertions, and cramped in their endeavours to perform their academical duty to their own satisfaction, in consequence of the strong prejudices that prevailed against the system of tuition. In his own time, these prepossessions were beginning to give way; but he completely effected what was obviously wanting in the scheme of medical education at the University of Edinburgh, by giving a connected view of the diseases peculiar to women and children. Still, however, the midwifery class was not in the list of those necessary to be attended before procuring the degree of Doctor of Medicine. His son has succeeded in accomplishing this object, after encountering a great deal of opposition.

Upon the 29th March 1797, the Magistrates of Edinburgh, who are the patrons, had resolved that it should not be in the power of any Professor to appoint another to teach in his room without their consent; but, upon application, Dr. Hamilton was allowed, on the 25th December 1798, to employ his son as his assistant, and this office he discharged for two years. The Doctor resigned his professorship upon the 26th of March 1800, and on the 9th of April, his son was unanimously elected to the chair.

Dr. Hamilton married Miss Reid of Gorgie, by whom he had a numerous family. He died upon the 23d of May 1802, in the sixty-fourth year of his age.

The figures of two ladies in the Print are not Portraits. Their being placed there is a fancy of the artist, in allusion to the profession of the Doctor.





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## No. CXXXV.

## REV. ROWLAND HILL, A.M.,

DELIVERING ONE OF HIS SERMONS ON THE CALTON HILL.

THIS popular preacher visited Scotland for the first time in 1798. He came at the solicitation of a few zealous individuals, who having engaged the Circus for a place of worship, similar in principle to the Tabernacle of London, were desirous that he should open it for them. Mr. Hill arrived in Edinburgh on the 28th July, and was received with the utmost attention by Mr. James Haldane, at his house in George Street. Next morning being Sabbath, he delivered a discourse in the Circus to an audience of several hundred people; and at night the house was filled to overflowing. During the two weeks he remained in Edinburgh, he preached every other day in some of the churches; but the crowds became so immense that he was at last induced to hold forth from a platform erected on the Calton Hill, where his audience was reckoned at not less than ten thousand. The interest excited by his presence is said to have been beyond precedent—"Even the *vera sodgers*," observed an old woman, on seeing a party of military among the crowd, "are gaun to hear the preachin'."

On the 18th of August, Mr. Hill proceeded to Glasgow, and arrived there in the evening in time to deliver a sermon in the churchyard of the High Church, to an assemblage of nearly five thousand. Next morning he again preached in the same place—and from thence went to Paisley, where he was highly gratified with his reception. In speaking of the people of Paisley, he says in his journal, "there I believe Christians love each other."

Returning from the west, he again preached several times on the Calton Hill to increased audiences. On the last of these occasions, when a collection was made for the Charity Workhouse, it was supposed that more than twenty thousand people were present. During his stay he was made a welcome guest at Melville House.<sup>1</sup>

The great excitement occasioned by Mr. Hill's visit, and the subsequent

<sup>1</sup> The facetious manner and great conversational powers possessed by the Rev. Rowland Hill were much relished by those who had the pleasure of meeting him in private circles during his stay in Edinburgh. A gentleman, who had then formed a slight acquaintance with Mr. Hill, happened to breakfast with him at Leicester a great many years afterwards. The subject of conversation naturally turned upon his visits to Scotland, and the multitudes to whom he had preached on the Calton Hill. "Well do I remember the spot," said the Reverend gentleman, with his usual pleasantry, "but I understand it has since been converted into a *den of thieves!*" [The jail is built on the ground where the Rev. Rowland Hill preached.]

increase of itinerant preachers, attracted the notice of the General Assembly, and, in the "Pastoral Admonition" of next year, occasion was taken to warn the people against such irregularities. This awakened a spirit of retaliation on the part of Mr. Hill, who, in the month of June 1799, made a second journey to Scotland, apparently for no other purpose than to preach down the Assembly.<sup>1</sup> On his arrival in Edinburgh he commenced "A Series of Letters" on the subject, addressed to the Society for Propagating the Gospel at Home, which he continued to issue during his tour through the principal towns of the north—Dundee, Montrose, Aberdeen, Huntly, etc.<sup>2</sup> He also visited Glasgow at this time, where he assisted the Rev. Greville Ewing in opening the Tabernacle in Jamaica Street. The crowd was very great, and during the afternoon service an alarm was given that part of the building was giving way. The people immediately rushed towards the doors and windows to get out, in consequence of which several persons had their arms and legs broken. Fortunately no lives were lost, and when the alarm subsided Mr. Ewing finished the service.

After a lapse of twenty-five years, Mr. Rowland Hill paid a third and last visit to Scotland in 1824, being then in his 80th year. He was induced to undertake this long journey in aid of the London missions. He came to Edinburgh by sea, and was kindly received at the house of the Rev. John Aikman, in whose chapel he preached the following Sabbath, as well as in the meeting-house of the Rev. Dr. Peddie. In the course of his stay, which scarcely extended to a week, he also preached in the Tabernacle of his old friend Mr. Haldane, and in the Secession Church, Broughton Place. From Edinburgh he went to Glasgow, in which city he was received with enthusiasm. From thence he proceeded to Paisley, and next to Greenock, where he continued several days making short excursions on the water. He then sailed by one of the steam vessels for Liverpool; and after preaching there, and at Manchester, he arrived at his summer residence of Wotton, greatly delighted with his Scottish tour, as well as pleased with his success, having made collections to the amount of sixteen hundred pounds.

Such is a brief sketch of the Reverend gentleman's visits to Scotland. To all our readers his name is at least familiar; and many anecdotes respecting him are current throughout the country. His life, by the Rev. Edwin Sidney, London, 1835, must also be pretty extensively known. This work, although not strictly impartial, and displaying too much twisting and straining on the question of Church Establishments, is nevertheless got up in an amusing style,

<sup>1</sup> After his return to London, he was asked one day why he called one of his carriage horses *Order* and the other *Decorum*. "Because," said the facetious preacher, "in Scotland they accuse me of riding on the back of all order and decorum."

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Hill's letters were afterwards printed in the form of a pamphlet, and entitled, "A Series of Letters, occasioned by the late Pastoral Admonition of the Church of Scotland, as also their attempts to suppress the establishment of Sabbath Schools, addressed to the Society for Propagating the Gospel at Home. By Rowland Hill, A.M." Edinburgh, printed by J. Ritchie, 1799.

and presents a very lively picture of the remarkable individual whom it describes.

The REV. ROWLAND HILL was the sixth son of Sir Rowland Hill of Hawkstone, in Shropshire, and uncle of the famous Lord Hill, who distinguished himself so much in the Peninsular war ; for his services in which he was ennobled.<sup>1</sup> Rowland possessed from infancy an open, lively disposition ; and gave early indication of that playful humour which clung to him so pertinaciously throughout his future years. On one occasion, being brought into the apartment where his father and mother were sitting with some company, the question was put to him—"Well, Rowley, and what should you like to be?" Looking archly at his father, who was sitting in an arm chair, he replied—"I should like to be a baronet and sit in a great chair!" Rowley was sent to Eton ; and, having early imbibed strong religious notions, which were ardently fanned by his elder brother and sister, he was subsequently placed at Cambridge, to study with a view to the Church. Here he soon became conspicuous for his religious zeal, by visiting the prisons and preaching to the poor in the neighbourhood. In this course, which gave much offence to the heads of the College of St John's, he was greatly encouraged by Mr. Whitfield, to whom he had been introduced, and who continued to correspond with his young protégé for several years. His father and mother were also nearly as much offended at his *Methodistical* conduct as the heads of the College ; and did everything to counteract his propensities. Nothing, however, could relax the devotion of the young enthusiast. In 1769 he took the degree of Bachelor of Arts ; and being then twenty-three years of age, he immediately exerted himself to obtain orders, but was refused by no fewer than six bishops. Thus rejected, he retired to his father's seat at Hawkstone, where, for several years, he continued to reside during the winter season ; and, with the "voice of spring," went forth to preach throughout the country. In consequence of his father's displeasure, the allowance he received for several years was extremely limited, so much so that he was frequently reduced to considerable embarrassments ; and sometimes he and the little pony which he kept to carry him over the country were at a loss where to find provender for the night. During his peregrinations he was in frequent danger from the tumults of the mob ; but he was of a fearless disposition, and regardless of personal danger. In his journal of 1771 this entry occurs—"10th May, at Stowey, to the most outrageous congregation I ever saw. There was such a noise with beating of pans, shovels, etc., blowing of horns and ringing of bells, that I could scarce hear myself speak. Though we were pelted with mud, dirt, eggs, etc., I was enabled to preach out my sermon." The excursions of the "Baronet's Son," as he was called, were extended, in this manner, over a great portion of the country, and even to Wales, where he was well received.

Rowland Hill first visited London in 1772, where he preached to immense congregations at the Tabernacle and at Tottenham Court Chapel. The same

<sup>1</sup> There were five brothers of this family at Waterloo, all of whom survived the action.

year he took the degree of Master of Arts at Cambridge, where he visited his old friends ; and, as winter drew on again, retired to the seat of his family in Shropshire.

Although maintaining views and conduct somewhat different from the Church of England, he was unwilling to be altogether without the pale of the Establishment. After considerable address, and through the good offices of his friends, he was at length assured of being admitted to orders. In the meantime, another important matter was also about to be concluded. Having gone to London for the purpose, he was married at Mary-le-Bone Church, on the 23d May 1773, to Miss Tudway, a relative of his own ; and immediately thereafter, having gone down to Somersetshire with Mrs. Hill, he was ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Bath and Wells. His title to orders was the parish of Kingston, and his stipend forty pounds a year. This event is recorded thus in his own words :—“ On Trinity Sunday, June 6, through the kind and unexpected interposition of Providence was I ordained by the Bishop of Bath and Wells, *without any promise or condition whatever.*” He was not permitted, however, to get into full orders. In a subsequent attempt to attain to the priesthood, the Bishop of Carlisle refused him, on the ground of his continued irregularities.

Having only officiated once or twice at Kingston, he renewed his former excursions, generally accompanied by Mrs. Hill. About this period, 1774, he built a house and chapel at Wotton, in Gloucestershire, not far from the banks of the Severn, and with a complete view of the Welsh mountains to the left. This romantic and beautiful spot became his favourite resort ; and, even after his settlement in London, continued to be his summer residence.

In 1775, he was frequently engaged in preaching in London and the neighbourhood. One night, when travelling in his phaeton, accompanied by Mrs. Hill, he was attacked by two or three fellows, who demanded his money. The same party had a few minutes before robbed his assistant, Mr. Whiteford, who was a short way in advance in his gig. When the robbers came to Mr. Hill, he set up such a tremendous unearthly shout, that one of them cried, “ We have stopped the devil by mistake, and had better be off !”—upon which they all ran away. This anecdote Mr. Hill used to laugh and tell himself ; and his biographer says it probably gave rise to “ the foolish story of his taking a robber into his service.”

After continuing for several years to preach for a given period alternately in London, Bristol, and his own little chapel at Wotton, his fame had so much increased in the metropolis that his friends were desirous of erecting a settled place of worship for him there. Accordingly, in 1783, the Surrey Chapel, in St. George’s Fields, was erected ; at the head of the directors of which was his brother Richard. London now became his settled place of residence, but he still reserved a part of every year to visit Wotton, and to make excursions to other parts of the country. The Surrey Chapel soon became a place of notoriety, to which many flocked through curiosity, and no doubt others from better motives. The mode of worship adopted was strictly Episcopalian. Aided by

a powerful organ, and one of the very best performers, the music was long famed for its excellence ; and it was universally admitted that the liturgy was nowhere performed with so much solemnity and effect as in the Surrey Chapel. The powerful eloquence, however, of Mr. Hill, and the occasional eccentricities of his manner, were the chief attractions. His language was always glowing, and his imagery of the richest and most fascinating description. Robert Hall observes—"No man has ever drawn, since the days of our Saviour, such sublime images of nature ; here Mr. Hill excels every other man." Fettered by no system, and squared by no rule, he gave way to his feelings with a boldness and freedom unknown to other preachers ; and, carried away by the impulse of the moment, frequently indulged a vein of humour and coarseness of language unsuited to the pulpit. Mr. Hill was himself sensible of his levity in this respect, but felt utterly incapable of resisting it. In going into the Chapel slips of paper were occasionally handed to him, announcing the conversion of individuals, and other good tidings, or requesting the prayers of the congregation. These he was in the habit of reading aloud. "On one occasion," says his biographer, "an impudent fellow placed a piece of paper on the desk, just before he was going to read prayers. He took it up and began—'The prayers of this congregation are desired for—umph—for—umph—well, I suppose I must finish what I have begun—for the Reverend Rowland Hill, that he will not go riding about in his carriage on a Sunday.' This would have disconcerted almost any other man ; but he looked up with great coolness, and said, 'If the writer of this piece of folly and impertinence is in the congregation, and will go into the vestry after service, and let me put a saddle on his back, I will ride him home instead of going in my carriage.' He then went on with the service as if nothing had happened."

Neither were his pulpit orations strictly confined to religious topics. Politics and the war frequently engrossed his attention. In preaching to a band of volunteers at his Chapel, in 1803, he introduced a hymn, written by himself, to the tune of *God save the King* ; and, on the same occasion, another hymn—also of his own composition—to the popular air of *Rule Britannia*, was sung by the congregation with great effect. The first stanza of this *parody* is as follows :—

" When Jesus first, at heaven's command,  
Descended from his azure throne,  
Attending angels join'd his praise,  
Who claim'd the kingdoms for his own.  
Hail Immanuel !—Immanuel we'll adore !  
And sound his fame from shore to shore."

In this way were the eccentricities of Mr. Hill displayed ; but always original, and accompanied with such genuine talent, that what in others would have appeared ridiculous, was in him not only tolerated, but esteemed ; while the many benefits which resulted from his active labours, and the fervency of his zeal, completely overshadowed any outrages upon decorum, which his strong imagination occasionally led him to commit.

At Surrey Chapel he was the first to commence the system of Sunday school teaching, now so extensively in operation over the kingdom. He was an original promoter of the London Bible, Missionary, and Religious Tract Societies ; and, in short almost all the other London societies, of a similar nature, were more or less indebted to the benevolent and enterprising disposition of the pastor of Surrey Chapel.

That the Rev. Rowland Hill was without his faults and imperfections no one will assert. Indeed, it is almost impossible to form a just conception of his character, his conduct may be viewed under such a variety of shade and colour. It may justly be said, however, that “even his failings leaned to virtue’s side.” The virulence and acrimony displayed in the long controversy with Wesley was perhaps the most reprehensible part of his public conduct, which, even the ambitious motives attributed to the “Old Fox,” and the circumstance of his being the first to commence hostilities, cannot altogether palliate. The position maintained by Mr. Hill between church and dissent was also an undefinable and most unprofitable piece of conceit ; insomuch that, notwithstanding his professed zeal for the union of Christians, it stood as a mighty stumbling-block in the way.

Of the private life of Rowland Hill there are many curious anecdotes. One morning a dispute occurred betwixt his coachman and footman, as to who should go for milk to the family. The coachman was sure “it was no business of his”—and the footman was equally “certain it was none of his.” Mr. Hill having overheard the quarrel, ordered the carriage out and the footman to attend. He then got the milk pitcher into the carriage, and ordered the coachman to drive to the dairy. On his return, he addressed the disputants in his usual forcible manner, and endeavoured to convince them, from the unnecessary trouble they had occasioned, of the folly of stickling so pugnaciously for their “rights.”

Owing partly to his own eccentric character, but more especially to the political influence of his connections, he was on familiar terms with some of the Royal family, and was supposed to have considerable influence at court. Many applications for his patronage were consequently made, and among these not a few of a curious nature. The following scene we cannot resist quoting in the words of his biographer :—“I well remember one morning the footman ushered in a most romantic-looking lady. She advanced with measured steps, and with an air that caused Mr. Hill to retreat towards the fireplace. She began—

‘Divine Shepherd.’

‘Pon my word, ma’am.’

‘I hear you have great influence with the Royal family.’

‘Well, ma’am ; and did you hear anything else ?’

‘Now, seriously, sir—my son has the most wonderful poetic powers. Sir, his poetry is of a sublime order—noble, original, fine.’

‘Well, I wonder what will come next,’ muttered Mr. Hill in a low tone.

‘Yes, sir, pardon the liberty ; and therefore I called to ask you to get him made *Poet Laureate*.’





'Ma'am, you might as well ask me to get him made Archbishop of Canterbury!'

The mother of the poetic genius withdrew, looking highly indignant at the fit of laughter it was impossible to suppress."

Not much of Mr. Rowland Hill's time was devoted to authorship. Besides his controversial pamphlets, and one or two published sermons, his "Village Dialogues," "Hymns and Token for Children," "Warning to Professors," etc., were the only productions submitted to the public. His long life, almost unexampled for its activity, was brought to a termination in 1833, at the age of eighty-nine.<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Hill died only three years before. He retained his faculties and usual vivacity of spirit almost to the very last. His remains were interred with great solemnity under the pulpit of Surrey Chapel, in presence of a large and respectable concourse of people.

No. CXXXVI.

JAMES GREGORY, M.D.,

PROFESSOR OF THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE IN THE UNIVERSITY  
OF EDINBURGH.

DR. JAMES GREGORY, the son of Dr. John Gregory, sometime Professor of Medicine in King's College, Aberdeen, and afterwards in the University of Edinburgh, was born in the former city in 1753, and received the earlier part of his education at the grammar school instituted by Dr. Patrick Dun. In consequence of his father's removal to Edinburgh in 1765, he subsequently studied at the University there, and took his degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1774. He then repaired to Leyden, where he attended the lectures of the celebrated Gobius—the favourite student and immediate successor of the great Boerhaave.

Dr. John Gregory died in 1773, before the education of his son had been completed; and, according to a previous arrangement, Dr. Cullen succeeded to the Practice of Physic. From this period the Professorship of the Institutes of Medicine was kept open by various means till 1778, when Dr. Gregory, then only in his twenty-third year, was appointed to the vacant chair. Although young, he was eminently qualified for the situation, from the extent of his

<sup>1</sup> When we last heard him, it was at his own Chapel in Blackfriars' Road. He began thus:—"It is time I were to give over preaching now, for the following reasons among others—first, I am losing my memory—second, my lungs are gone." He was then standing in the pulpit, supporting himself with a stout staff.

acquirements and his own natural talents. Of this we need no better proof than is afforded by his text-book, "Conspectus Medicinæ Theoreticæ ad usum Academicum," which he published a few years after obtaining the professorship, and which procured for its author a high professional character throughout Europe.

In 1790, on the death of Dr. Cullen, Dr. Gregory was elected Professor of the Practice of Physie, and successfully maintained the reputation acquired by his predecessor. His success as a teacher was great; and his class was, during the long period he filled the chair, numerously attended by students from all parts of the world. He also held the appointment of first Physician to his Majesty for Scotland.

Dr. Gregory was distinguished for his classical attainments, and especially for proficiency in the Latin language, to which his thesis, "De Morbis Coeli Mutatione Medendi," in 1774, bore ample testimony. His talents for literature and general philosophy were of a high order; and that he did not prosecute these to a greater extent was no doubt owing to the pressure of his professional duties, which scarcely left him an hour to himself.<sup>1</sup> In 1792 he published two volumes 8vo, entitled "Philosophical and Literary Essays," in which he combated the doctrine of fatalism maintained by Dr. Priestley in a work previously published by that author under the title of "Philosophical Necessity." He forwarded the manuscripts of his essays to Dr. Priestley for perusal prior to publication, but the Doctor declined the honour, on the ground that his mind was made up, and that he had ceased to think of the subject.

Dr. Gregory was likewise the author of a "Dissertation on the Theory of the Moods of Verbs"—a paper read to the Royal Society, of which he was a member; and he published an edition of Cullen's "First Lines of the Practice of Physic," two vols. 8vo.

We have now to allude to a series of publications, commenced in 1793, which, but for the extraordinary degree of local excitement created by them at the time, we should willingly have passed over without comment. The first of these was a pamphlet by Dr. Gregory, in which he endeavoured, by *internal evidence*, to fix the authorship of a book, entitled "A Guide for Gentlemen studying Medicine at the University of Edinburgh," upon the two Doctors Hamilton, father and son. The author of the "Guide" had been somewhat severe in his strictures in regard to some of the professorships of the University; while, in the opinion of Dr. Gregory and his friends, an undue degree of praise had been bestowed upon the midwifery classes taught by Drs. Hamilton. To this Dr. James Hamilton junior replied in a well-written pamphlet, in which

<sup>1</sup> Respecting Dr. Gregory's extensive practice, and the numerous patients who, attracted by his fame, came from great distances to consult him, several anecdotes have found their way into books of light reading. The scene in his study with a guzzling, punch-drinking citizen of Glasgow, is amusing, and must be familiar to almost every reader. No man possessed more gentlemanly manners than Dr. Gregory; yet, in such cases as that of the Glasgow merchant, or of the lady who came from London to consult him against the infirmities of age, he expressed himself with a brevity and bluntness the reverse of gratifying.

he calmly, yet with spirit, urged the groundlessness of the accusation, and the unprovoked asperity of his opponent. In the meantime law proceedings had been instituted against the publisher of the "Guide," in order to discover the author, while Dr. Hamilton commenced counter-proceedings against Dr. Gregory, for the injuries his character had sustained by the manner in which he had been traduced.

In 1800, another paper warfare occurred, in consequence of a memorial addressed by Dr. Gregory to the managers of the Royal Infirmary, complaining of the younger members of the College of Surgeons being there allowed to perform operations. This was replied to by Mr. John Bell, surgeon; and a controversy ensued, which for some time engrossed the whole attention of the Edinburgh medical profession.

Again, in 1806, the Doctor entered into a warm controversy with the College of Physicians, owing to some proceedings on the part of that body which he considered derogatory to the profession.

In 1808, he printed, for private circulation, a small volume in 8vo, entitled "Lucubrations on an Epigram;" also, in 1810, "There is Wisdom in Silence"—an imitation from the Anthologia; and "The Viper and the File"—an imitation of the well-known fable of Phædrus, "Vipera et Lima." As a specimen of his epigrammatic talents, we give the following—

" 'O give me, dear angel, one lock of your hair'—  
A bashful young lover took courage and sighed;  
'Twas a sin to refuse so modest a pray'r—  
' You shall have my whole wig,' the dear angel replied."

Dr. Gregory was of an athletic figure, and naturally of a strong constitution. He had enjoyed good health; and from his abstemious mode of life, might have been expected to live to extreme old age. The overturn of his carriage, whilst returning from visiting a patient, by which accident his arm was broken, proved injurious to his constitution. He was afterwards repeatedly attacked with inflammation of the lungs, which ultimately caused his death. He died at his house in St. Andrew Square, on the 2d April 1821, in the sixty-eighth year of his age.

Dr. Gregory was twice married. By his second wife—a daughter of Donald Macleod, Esq. of Geanies, and who survived him—he left a numerous family. His eldest son was educated for the bar, and was admitted a member of the Faculty of Advocates in 1820. A younger son, Donald, who died in October 1836, in the prime of life, was for several years Secretary to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland; and in this situation he highly distinguished himself by his zeal, assiduity, and agreeable manners. In his late work entitled the "History of the Western Highlands and Isles of Scotland," brought down to the year 1625, he has fortunately left us a permanent memorial of his learning and accurate research—not the less valuable that it is in fact one of the first attempts to investigate the history of that portion of the British Empire, not by reference to vague traditions and idle reveries, but by the most careful

examination of original documents, and the various public records. This work indeed forms part only of his contemplated scheme, for, had his life been spared, he intended to have followed it up with another volume relating to the other great division, or the Central Highlands, which could not have failed to have proved of even greater historical interest, independently of what he purposed to have prefixed—"A Dissertation on the Manners, Customs, and Laws of the Highlanders," at an early period ; and for which, we believe, he had collected very important materials.

## No. CXXXVII.

## DR. JAMES GREGORY,

IN THE UNIFORM OF THE ROYAL EDINBURGH VOLUNTEERS.

WHEN this loyal corps was formed, in 1793, DR. GREGORY entered warmly into the spirit of the design, and was among the first to enrol himself in the ranks. He never, however, attained eminence in his military capacity. The well-known Sergeant Gould used to say, "he might be a good physician, but he was a very awkward soldier." At drill he was either very absent or very inquisitive, and put so many questions, that Gould, out of temper, often said—"D—n it, sir, you are here to obey orders, and not to ask reasons; there is nothing in the King's orders about reasons!"

Aware of his deficiency, the Doctor was not only punctual in attending all regimental field-days, but frequently had the Sergeant-Major at his own house to give him instructions. On one of these occasions, the Sergeant, out of all patience with the awkwardness and inquisitiveness of his learned pupil, exclaimed in a rage—"Hold your tongue, sir; I would rather drill *ten clowns* than *one philosopher!*"<sup>1</sup>

Small parties of the volunteers were drilled privately in the Circus (afterwards the Adelphi Theatre). On one of these occasions, while marching across the stage, the trap-door used by the players having been inadvertently left unbolted, the Doctor suddenly disappeared to the "shades below;" upon which a wag belonging to the corps exclaimed—"Exit Gregor's Ghost!"

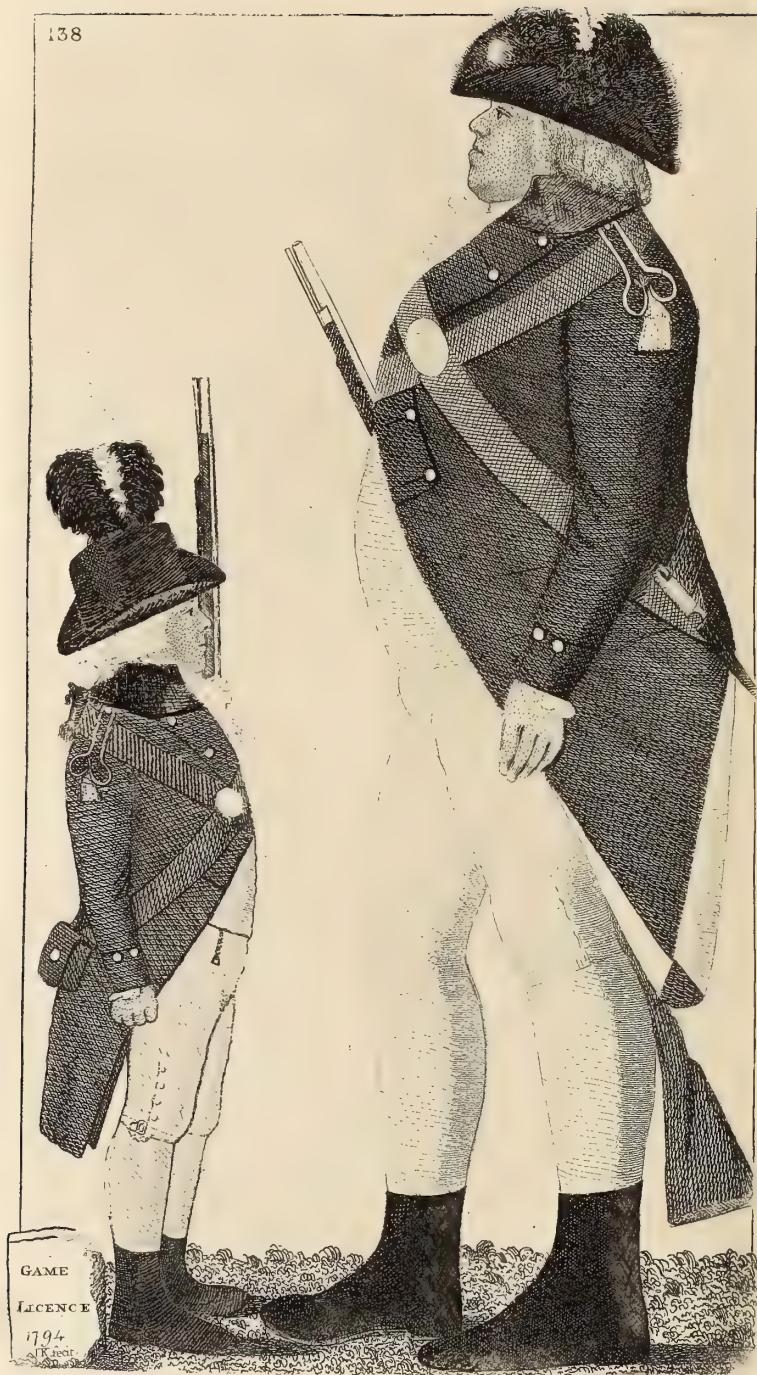
<sup>1</sup> An allusion to a popular Scotch ballad called "Young Gregor's Ghost."



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## No. CXXXVIII.

ALEXANDER OSBORNE, ESQ.,  
AND FRANCIS RONALDSON, ESQ.,

TWO OF THE ROYAL EDINBURGH VOLUNTEERS.

MR. OSBORNE was right-hand man of the grenadier company of the First Regiment of the Royal Edinburgh Volunteers. His personal appearance must be familiar in the recollection of many of our readers. It was not merely his great height, although he was probably the tallest man of his day in Edinburgh, but his general bulk, which rendered him so very remarkable. His legs in particular, during his best days, were nearly as large in circumference as the body of an ordinary person. He was a very good-natured and well-informed man. Shortly after the Volunteers had been embodied, Lord Melville introduced his huge countryman, dressed in full regimentals, to his Majesty George III. On witnessing such an herculean specimen of his loyal defenders in the north, the King's curiosity was excited, and he inquired—"Are all the Edinburgh Volunteers like you?" Osborne, mistaking the jocular construction of the question, and supposing his Majesty meant as regarded their status in society, replied—"They are so, an' it please your Majesty." The King exclaimed—"Astonishing!"

Mr. Osborne was frequently annoyed by his friends taking advantage of his good nature, and playing off their jests at the expense of his portly figure. One day at dinner, the lady of the house asked him if he would choose to take a pigeon. He answered—"Half a one, if you please." Bailie Creech, who was present, immediately cried—"Give him a whole one; *half a one* will not be a seed in his teeth."

In his youth, Mr. Osborne is said to have had a prodigious appetite; so much so, as to have devoured not less than *nine pounds* of beef-steaks at a meal. He was no epicure, however; and in later times ate sparingly in company, either because he really was easily satisfied, or more probably to avoid the observations which to a certainty would have been made upon his eating. On one occasion, the lady of a house where he was dining, helped him to an enormous slice of beef, with these words—"Mr. Osborne, the muckle ox should get the muckle winlan"—an observation which, like every other of a similar import, he felt acutely.

On another occasion, he happened to change his shoes in the passage of a house where he was dining. Mr. Creech, of facetious memory, having followed

shortly after, and recognising the shoes, brought one of them in his hand into the drawing-room, and presenting it to another of the guests, Mr. John Buchan, Writer to the Signet, who was of very diminutive stature, said to him—"Hae, Johnny, there's a *cradle* for you to sleep in."

The personal history of Mr. Osborne affords few particulars either peculiar or interesting. His father, Alexander Osborne, Esq., Comptroller of Customs at Aberdeen, and who died there in 1785, was a gentleman of even greater dimensions than his son.

After having filled an inferior appointment for some years at one of the out-ports, Mr. Osborne obtained the office of Inspector-General and Solicitor of Customs. He was subsequently appointed one of the Commissioners of the Board; and, latterly, on the reduction made in that establishment, retired upon a superannuated allowance.

Mr. Osborne was never married; and, being of frugal habits, he amassed a considerable fortune, and made several landed purchases. Besides a pretty extensive tract of land in Orkney, he was proprietor of a small estate in Ayrshire. Gogar Bank, a few miles west of Edinburgh, belonged to him, where he had a summer house, and a very extensive and excellent garden. Here he often contemplated building a handsome villa, but the design was never carried into execution.

Mr. Osborne died about the year 1830, at the advanced age of seventy-four; and it is understood the bulk of his property was bequeathed to a gentleman of the west country. He lived at one time in Richmond Street; but latterly, and for a considerable number of years, in York Place.

The small figure to the left represents the late MR. RONALDSON of the Post Office. He was one of the least men of the regiment, but a very zealous volunteer. He is placed in the same Print with Osborne, in order to record an anecdote of Sergeant Gould. In forming a double from a single rank, at a squad drill, Francis became Osborne's rear man. Poor Francis was never seen; and Gould, addressing the next man, continued to call out—"Move to the right, sir; why the devil don't you cover?" Little Francis at length exclaimed, with great naïveté—"I can't cover—I do all I can!"

Mr. Ronaldson was Surveyor of the General Post Office, which situation he held for upwards of forty years. He was a most active, spirited little personage, and remarkably correct in the management of his official department. He kept a regular journal of his surveys, which, on his demise, was found to have been brought up till within a few days of his death.

In private life, Ronaldson was exceedingly joyous, full of wit and anecdote, and was withal a man of rare qualifications. He had also some claims to a literary character. He was a votary of the muses, and a great collector of fugitive pieces. He left upwards of two dozen volumes of *Scraps*—culled principally from newspapers—consisting of whatever seemed to him valuable or curious. He was also deeply versed in divinity; and, strange as it may appear,

several well-written sermons are among his manuscripts. As illustrative of his talent for the pulpit, it is told of Mr. Ronaldson, that on one occasion he invited an acquaintance, a clergyman, to take a drive with him in his carriage on a short official journey. The day being the last of the week, his friend declined on the ground that he had "a sermon to study for to-morrow." "O never mind," said Ronaldson ; "if that's all, step in—I'll assist you with it." The clergyman afterwards acknowledged the aid he had received ; and expressed his astonishment at the extent of information and the fluency of language displayed by the Post-Office Surveyor.

When the duties of the day were over, Francis delighted to hurry home to his literary labour. There you were certain to find him—his coat off and "in his slippers"—busily engaged with scissors and paste-brush, while armfuls of dissected papers, spread out on the table before him, sufficiently attested to his rapacity as a gleaner.

We have glanced over several sheets of his sermons, and have seen his scrapbooks, which are indeed curious. Several of the volumes are in manuscript, and contain original as well as selected pieces, both in prose and verse. As a specimen of the poetical department, the following may be taken :—

"LINES ON SEEING, IN A LIST OF NEW MUSIC, A PIECE ENTITLED  
'THE WATERLOO WALTZ.'

"A moment pause, ye British fair,  
While pleasure's phantoms ye pursue,  
And say if sprightly dance or air,  
Suit with the name of Waterloo !

Awful was the victory—  
Chasten'd should the triumph be :  
'Midst the laurels she has won,  
Britain mourns for many a son.

"Veil'd in clouds the morning rose ;  
Nature seem'd to mourn the day,  
Which consign'd, before its close,  
Thousands to their kindred clay.

How unfit for courtly ball,  
Or the giddy festival,  
Was the grim and ghastly view,  
Ere ev'nng clos'd on Waterloo !

"See the Highland warrior rushing,  
Firm in danger on the foe,  
Till the life-blood warmly gushing,  
Lays the plaided hero low.  
His native pipe's accustom'd sound,  
'Mid war's infernal concert drown'd  
Cannot soothe his last adieu,  
Or wake his sleep on Waterloo !

"Chasing o'er the cuirassier,  
See the foaming charger flying ;  
Trampling in his wild career,  
All alike the dead and dying.

See the bullet, through his side,  
Answer'd by the spouting tide ;  
Helmet, horse, and rider too,  
Roll on bloody Waterloo !

"Shall scenes like these the dance inspire ?  
Or wake enlivening notes of mirth ?  
O ! shiver'd be the recreant lyre  
That gave the base idea birth !

Other sounds I ween were there—  
Other music rent the air—  
Other waltz the warriors knew,  
When they clos'd on Waterloo !

"Forbear !—till time with lenient hand  
Has sooth'd the pang of recent sorrow ;  
And let the picture distant stand,  
The softening hue of years to borrow.  
When our race has pass'd away,  
Hands unborn may wake the lay ;  
And give to joy alone the view,  
Of Britain's fame on Waterloo !

"April 23, 1817."

In Mr. Ronaldson's collections are to be found many very amusing and humorous articles, strongly indicative of his relish for the ludicrous. The following may serve as a specimen :—

*“ [Taken from a Church-door in Ireland.]*

“ RUN AWAY FROM PATRICK M'DALLAGH.

“ Whereas my wife, Mrs. Bridget M'Dallagh, is again walked away with herself, and left me with four small children and her poor old blind mother, and no body to look after house or home, and I hear has taken up with Tim Guigan, the lame fiddler, the same that was put in the stocks last Easter for stealing Barney Doody's game-cock, This is to give Notice, that I will not pay for bit or sup on her or his account to man or mortal, and that she had better never show the marks of her ten toes near my house again.

PATRICK M'DALLAGH.

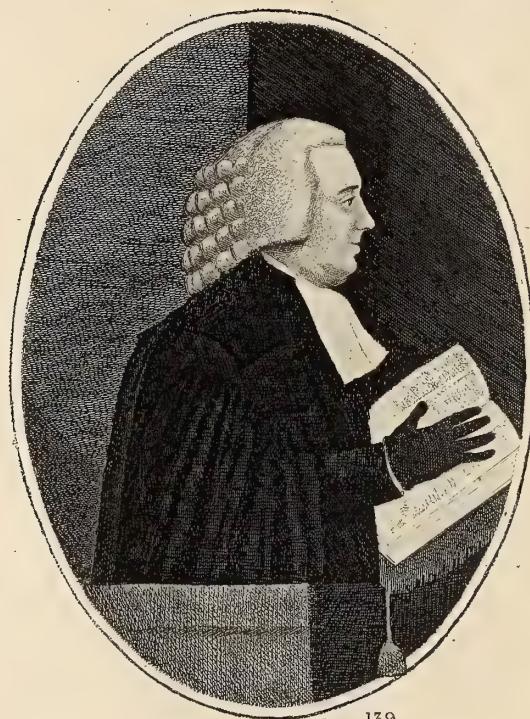
“ *N.B.—Tim* had better keep out of my sight.”

Mr. Ronaldson belonged to the right centre company of the Volunteers, but was occasionally drafted to other companies ; in consequence of which he was sometimes brought to cover Mr. Osborne. In this position little Francis, from his convenient height, was of important service to his gigantic friend, by helping him to his side-arms when ordered to fix bayonets—Osborne, owing to his immense bulk, finding great difficulty in reaching the weapon.

The regimental firelocks being rather too heavy, Mr. Ronaldson had one manufactured specially for himself. One day at a review, General Vyse, then Commander-in-Chief, happening to observe the difference, remarked the circumstance—“ Why,” said Ronaldson with great animation, “ if my firelock is light, I have weight enough *here!*” (pointing to his cartridge-box). The General complimented little Francis on his spirit, observing—“ It would be well if every one were animated with similar zeal.”

Although in the Print allusion is made to the “game-laws,” Mr. Ronaldson was no sportsman ; that is to say, he was not partial to roaming through fields with a dog and a gun ; but he affected to be a follower of Walton in the art of angling. On one of his fishing excursions on the Tweed he was accompanied by a gentleman, who was no angler, but who went to witness the scientific skill of a friend. Francis commenced with great enthusiasm, and with high hopes of success. Not a leap was observed for some time ; but by and by the water seemed to live as it were with “the springing trout ;” yet, strange to say, all the dexterity of the angler could not beguile even a single par from its element. After hours of fruitless labour, Francis was perfectly confounded at his want of success. In vain he altered his flies—all colours and sizes were equally ineffectual ; and at length the closing day compelled him to cease from his labours. On his way home he was accosted by an acquaintance—“ Well, what luck to-day, Mr. Ronaldson ?” “ Very bad,” he replied ; “ plenty raised, but not a single take.” This apparent plenty, however, did not arise from the abundance of fish, as Mr. Ronaldson supposed—his friend, who always kept a little to the rear, having amused himself by throwing small pebbles into the water, in such a way as led to the deception. The gentleman kept the secret,





J. Kay. 1793 139

and Francis for years puzzled his brains in vain to find out the cause of his extraordinary ill luck in the piscatorial exploits of that eventful day.

Mr. Ronaldson was a native of Edinburgh. He was married, but had no family. He resided in a house at the Calton Hill, where he died in 1818, his widow surviving him only a few years. The most of his property was bequeathed in various sums to the different charities of the city.

#### No. CXXXIX.

#### REV. ROBERT WALKER,

ONE OF THE MINISTERS OF THE HIGH CHURCH, EDINBURGH.

THIS much esteemed clergyman was for upwards of twenty years a colleague of the celebrated Dr. Blair, whose memoir has already been given.

MR. WALKER was born in the Canongate of Edinburgh in 1716, his father being minister of that parish.<sup>1</sup> He studied at the University of Edinburgh, and in 1737 was licensed by the Presbytery of Kirkcudbright. In 1738 he received a unanimous call to the parish of Straiton, situated within the bounds of the Presbytery of Ayr, to which he was ordained; and for nearly eight years continued zealously to discharge the duties of the pastoral office among the parishioners, by whom he was much beloved and respected. He has been frequently heard to declare in after life, that he looked back upon the years passed at Straiton as the most satisfactory period of his life.

From Straiton, in 1746, he was called to the second charge in South Leith. Being then in the prime of life he appeared in the pulpit to great advantage, and became very popular. Here he remained till 1754, when he was appointed to one of the collegiate charges in the High Church, where he continued during the remainder of his life.

Mr. Walker maintained a high character, both as a man and as a preacher. He published two volumes of Sermons,<sup>2</sup> which long retained their popularity, and are yet so much admired by preachers, that, with a few alterations, they are frequently adopted by some in the pulpit as their own! With his colleague Dr. Blair, notwithstanding a difference of opinion on some minor points, he lived on terms of the closest friendship and intimacy; and although he did not aspire to the literary fame of that divine, his eloquence as a preacher was not

<sup>1</sup> He was uncle of the late Robert Walker of Canongate.

<sup>2</sup> A new edition, accompanied by a third volume, with an account of his life by Dr. Blair, was published after his death.

less commanding, nor his local popularity inferior. The celebrity of the one existed principally among the higher classes in the city ; while the more evangelical discourses of the other endeared him to the less opulent, yet equally, if not more, devout portion of the community.

The congregations of the two incumbents were thus very dissimilar in character. Dr. Blair's was less numerous than that of Mr. Walker, but the church-door collections of the former were much greater. Hence the elders were wont to remark, that it took *twenty-four* of Mr. Walker's hearers to equal *one* of Dr. Blair's.

In private life, Mr. Walker was certainly more *generally* esteemed than his colleague. This probably arose from a familiarity on the part of the one which was in some measure foreign to the character and manners of the other ; and there was at least one virtue—liberality in money matters—which he possessed to a greater extent than his literary colleague. One day during the repairs of the High Church, while the two ministers were looking on, the workmen importuned Mr. Walker for some money to drink their healths. To this Mr. Walker jocularly replied—"Apply to my colleague," whom they knew to be not remarkably generous—at the same time quietly giving them five shillings.

Mr. Walker was highly Calvinistic in his religious views ; and, where he conceived it to be his duty, no man could be more firm in denouncing any derelictions of a public or private nature. He was an enemy to many public amusements. During the early part of his incumbency in the High Church the celebrated case of Home, the author of Douglas, called in an especial manner the attention of the clergy to the stage, and brought down their severest denunciations. On reading the admonition of the Presbytery of Edinburgh from the pulpit, on the 30th of January 1757, he entered warmly and fearlessly upon the subject of theatrical representations. On another occasion, which caused no inconsiderable degree of excitement in the city, some thirteen years afterwards, he spoke out with equal boldness ; and, although at the present day there may not be many who will coincide to the full in his opinions with respect to the stage, all must admire the manly tone of his sentiments, and the eloquence with which they were expressed. The circumstance to which we allude occurred in 1770, when the comedy of the *Minor*, under the management of Mr. Foote,<sup>1</sup> was performed on the Saturday evening. The occurrence gave rise to severe remarks in the periodical works of the time ; and called forth a sermon from the Rev. Mr. Baine (whose Portrait will be found in a subsequent part of this work), which he published and dedicated to Mr. Foote. The following account of the affair is from one of the London journals—the article having been forwarded from Edinburgh :—

<sup>1</sup> "By an agreement between Mr. Foote, patentee of the Theatre in the Haymarket, London, and Mr. Ross, Mr. Foote is manager of the Edinburgh Theatre this winter. Mr. Ross is returned to one of the Theatres in London. On Saturday, November 17th, the Edinburgh Theatre was opened for the winter with the *Commissary*—a comedy written by Mr. Foote. The audience was numerous and splendid, and the performance highly relished. The plays are regularly continued every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday."—Theatrical Notice, Nov. 1770.

" On Saturday, November 24, Mr. Foote gave us the *Minor*; that piece of his which has made so much noise. The play for that night was bespoke by the Lord President of the Court of Session (Robert Dundas of Arniston), in justice to whom, however, it must be observed, that he did not fix on the particular piece that should be acted; and when it was known to be the *Minor*, a very proper message was sent to Mr. Foote, not to exhibit the ludicrous *épilogue*.<sup>1</sup> Some of our thoughtless bucks, however, were determined to frustrate the decent and becoming resolution of their superiors; and, having planted themselves in the pit, they, with much vociferation, roared out for *Dr. Squintum*. After a pause, to see if the storm would subside, Mr. Foote, who was by this time dressed for the character of *Major Sturgeon*, came forward and made an apology, putting the audience in mind of the old proverb—*De mortuis nil nisi bonum*—which ought never to be violated. A distinguished buck cried, 'That won't satisfy us.' 'Sir,' said a noble peer, 'if you have a heart it should satisfy you.' Nothing, however, would do but Mr. Foote's speaking the epilogue—which he accordingly was obliged to do. Next day the Rev. Mr. Walker, one of the ministers of the High Church, having had occasion, in the course of his lecturing on the Scriptures, to mention the doctrine of *regeneration*, he took an opportunity of censuring what he called the gross profanation in the Theatre the preceding evening. He delivered himself with dignity, propriety, and spirit; and, though we could not go so far as he did in our notions of the stage in general, we could not but admire him for speaking his sentiments with an earnest firmness. He happened on that day to lecture in course on 2 Cor. v. 14—21; and when he came to verse 17, before expounding it, he said—

" 'I cannot read this verse without expressing the just indignation I feel upon hearing that last night a profane piece of buffoonery was publicly acted, in which, unless it hath undergone very material alterations, this sacred doctrine, and some others connected with it, are introduced to the stage for no other purpose but to gratify the impiety, and to excite the laughter of thoughtless, miserable, dying sinners.'

" 'I had occasion some years ago to deliver very fully, from this place, my opinion of theatrical entertainments in general—an opinion then supported by the laws of my country. And as my sentiments in that matter were not formed upon such fluctuating things as the humours, or maxims, or degrees of man, it is impossible that any variation in these can alter them; though perhaps I should not have thought it necessary to remind you of them at present had not so gross an outrage upon the very passage that occurs this day in my course of lecturing challenged me to it. When I say this, I do not mean to make any sort of apology for using my undoubted privilege to walk with perfect freedom in the King's highway—I mean in the highway of the King of Kings. If any jostle me in that road, they, and not I, must answer for the consequences. I here speak upon oath; I am bound to declare the whole counsel of God; and *wo is to me if I preach not the gospel*. If men are bold enough to act impiety, surely a minister of Christ may at least be equally bold in reprobating it; he hath a patent for doing so more valid and authoritative than any Theatre can possess, or any power on earth can give.'

Such is a specimen of Mr. Walker's pulpit oratory, and of the manly independence of his spirit. The Lords of Session, the Barons of the Exchequer, and the Lord Provost and Magistrates, were present on the occasion.

Mr. Walker possessed a sound constitution, and enjoyed almost uninterrupted good health till 1782, when he was seized with apoplexy. He recovered so far, however, in the course of the year, as to resume his ministerial labours. On Friday, the 4th of April 1783, he preached in the forenoon, apparently in his usual health; but on leaving the pulpit he complained of headache, and no sooner reached his own house, which he did with some difficulty, than he was instantly seized with a stupor, and died in the course of two hours. Funeral sermons were preached on account of his demise by the Rev. Dr. Erskine, and by his own colleague the Rev. Dr. Blair.

Mr. Walker resided on the Castle Hill, nearly opposite the Water Reservoir.

<sup>1</sup> Under the character of *Dr. Squintum*, a severe satire was levelled at the Rev. Mr. Whitfield, who died on the 30th September 1770.

## No. CXL.

## SIR DAVID RAE OF ESKGROVE, BART.,

LORD JUSTICE-CLERK.

SIR DAVID RAE was the son of the Rev. David Rae, a clergyman of the Episcopal persuasion in Edinburgh, by Agnes, a daughter of Sir David Forbes of Newhall, Baronet, brother to the celebrated Duncan Forbes of Culloden.

He was born in 1729, and acquired his classical education at the University of Edinburgh, where he studied for the bar, and was admitted a member of the Faculty of Advocates in 1751. When the celebrated Douglas cause was before the Court, he was appointed one of the Commissioners who accompanied Lords Monboddo and Gardenstone (then advocates) to France, in 1764, for the purpose of investigating the proceedings which had been carried on in Paris relative to the case.

After thirty years of honourable and successful practice at the bar, Mr. Rae was promoted to the bench on the death of Alexander Boswell of Auchinleck in 1782, and succeeded Robert Bruce of Kennet as a Lord of Justiciary in 1785. On his promotion, he assumed the title of Lord Eskgrove, from the name of a small estate near Inveresk, not far from Musselburgh. On the bench he was distinguished by that depth of legal knowledge and general talent for which he was eminent as an advocate. His opinions were generally expressed in a clear, lucid manner; and he sometimes indulged in humorous illustration.

In a cause relating to the game-laws, decided in 1790,<sup>1</sup> after parties had been heard, and the Lord Justice-Clerk (Macqueen), as well as Lord Hailes, had severally delivered their opinions in favour of the pursuer, Lord Monboddo, as he frequently did, held quite a different opinion from the rest of his brethren. He contended that, in order to prevent our noblemen and gentlemen from growing effeminate, and for preserving their strength and bodies in good order, the legislature meant to encourage sportsmen, and allowed them to pursue their game where they could find it; and he desired to see what law took away this right. There were laws, indeed, prohibiting them from hunting on enclosed grounds; but when it prohibited them from those grounds, it certainly implied that they were tolerated on grounds not enclosed. *Although he should stand single in his opinion, he could see no reason for altering it.*

Lord Eskgrove observed in reply, that he was no *hunter* himself, and he

<sup>1</sup> The parties were the Earl of Breadalbane *v.* Livingstone of Parkhall; the latter having killed game on the lands of the Earl without permission. The case was decided against the defender.



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should be sorry to see his *learned friend* prevented from following this healthful sport. Other property he understood was at the proprietor's will, and exclusively his own ; and he could not see why land was not alike sacred. If a gentleman had no power to prevent another from following his sport on his grounds, it might be carried to every species of sport. With regard to the law allowing and encouraging hunting to preserve our nobility and gentry from becoming effeminate, he saw little danger of this ; but, if they had no game to pursue on their own grounds, let them *hunt upon the highway*—perhaps this would brace their nerves ! As for the common people, they might attend to their necessary avocations ; or, if that would not do, and if not allowed to hunt, they might *roll cannon balls*,<sup>1</sup> which he saw was a new diversion likely to be introduced, and which he believed they would find to be exercise enough to make them hardy, without trespassing on their neighbour's property, by hunting where they had no right.

Lord Eskgrove was one of the judges before whom Margarot, Skirving, and Gerald, the Reformers of 1793, were tried ; and, making due allowance for the difference of sentiment held on the principles involved in these trials, it must be admitted that, in delivering his opinions on the various points brought under the review of the bench, his arguments were acutely logical, and in strict accordance with existing laws.<sup>2</sup>

On the death of Lord Braxfield in 1799, Lord Eskgrove was promoted to be Lord Justice-Clerk, which office he filled with ability and integrity of character. In 1804, the honour of a baronetage was conferred upon him as a mark of Royal approbation ; but, being then far advanced in years, he did not long enjoy his title. He died on the 4th October of the same year.

Sir David Rae married in 1761 Margaret, daughter of Dougal Stewart, Esq. of Blairhall, a near relative of the Earl of Bute and of Lady Ann Stewart, daughter of Francis, Earl of Moray, by whom he had two sons and a daughter. David, his successor, entered early into the army, and was at one time Lieutenant-Colonel of the Middlesex Militia. On his death he was succeeded by his brother, Sir William Rae, who for many years was Sheriff of Edinburgh, the arduous duties of which office he discharged with universal approbation. He was appointed Lord Advocate upon the promotion of Lord Meadowbank in 1819, and held this high office down to the end of the year 1830. He was again appointed Lord Advocate during Sir Robert Peel's administration in 1835, and afterwards was elected member of Parliament for the county of Bute, and a Privy Councillor.

Lord Eskgrove lived for many years in a house at the head of the Old

<sup>1</sup> There used to be an old game, for which, in the Kirk-Session records, various transgressors of the Sabbath-day used to be punished, called “playing at the bullets”—perhaps his lordship alluded to this ; but it was not a *new* diversion, being very common during the seventeenth century.

<sup>2</sup> It ought perhaps to be remembered, as due to the characters of the judges who filled the bench in 1793, that similar opinions were held by their successors, and the legality of their proceedings confirmed twenty-seven years afterwards, in the case of Macleod, who was transported in 1821, for his connection with an unstamped periodical, published in Glasgow, called the “Spirit of the Union.”

Assembly Close. He subsequently removed to St John's Street, Canongate, where he continued until his death.

## No. CXLI.

## MR. DAVID DOWNIE,

GOLDSMITH IN EDINBURGH—TRIED FOR HIGH TREASON ALONG WITH  
ROBERT WATT IN 1794.

TOWARDS the end of 1793, several meetings of the British Convention were held in Edinburgh. At one of them (5th December) the Magistrates interfered, dispersed the Convention, and apprehended ten or twelve of the members, among whom were several English delegates ; but who, after examination, were liberated on bail. The Magistrates at the same time issued a proclamation, prohibiting all such meetings in future ; and giving notice to all persons "who shall permit the said meetings to be held in their houses, or other places belonging to them, that they will be prosecuted and punished with the utmost severity of law." Notwithstanding this proclamation another meeting was summoned by the secretary, William Skirving, to be held in the cock-pit, Grassmarket, on the 12th of December. On this occasion the Magistrates again interfered, and apprehended several of the members ; some of whom were served with indictments to take their trial before the High Court of Justiciary. It was about this time that Watt and Downie became deeply involved in those transactions for which they were condemned. After the dispersion of the British Convention, they became active members of a "Committee of Union," designed to collect the sense of the people, and to assemble another Convention. They were also members of a committee, called the "Committee of Ways and Means"—of which Downie was treasurer. In unison with the sentiments of the London Convention, it appears, the "Friends of the People" in Edinburgh had abandoned all hope of, or intention of further demanding, redress by constitutional means ; and the more resolute of them began to entertain designs of an impracticable and dangerous nature. Of these wild schemes Watt was a principal and active promoter.

The first attempt of the Committee was to gain the co-operation of the military, or least to render them neutral ; for which purpose they printed an address, and circulated a number of copies among the Hopetoun Fencibles, then stationed at Dalkeith.<sup>1</sup> A plan was also formed, by which it was

<sup>1</sup> The regiment was about to march for England. The object of the address was to excite the men to mutiny, by persuading them that they were sold to go abroad ; and that if they revolted, they would get thousands to assist them. John Geddes, a witness and one of the soldiers, said he read the address. Some of the words it contained were—"Stay at home ! O ! dear brothers, stay at home ! "



DAVID DOWNIE,



expected that the city, together with the Castle, would fall into the hands of the “Friends of the People.” The design was as follows:—“A fire was to be raised near the Excise Office, which would require the attendance of the soldiers, who were to be met on their way by a body of the ‘Friends of the People;’ another party of whom were to issue from the West Bow, to confine the soldiers between two fires, and cut off their retreat. The Castle was next to be attempted; the Judges and Magistrates were to be seized; and all the public banks were to be secured. A proclamation was then to be issued, ordering all the farmers to bring in their grain to market as usual; and enjoining all country gentlemen unfriendly to the cause to keep within their houses, or three miles of them, under penalty of death. Then an address was to be sent to his Majesty, commanding him to put an end to the war—to change his ministers—or take the consequences.”

Before this extraordinary project could be carried into effect, it was necessary that arms of some description or other should be procured. Another committee was consequently formed, called the collectors of “Sense and Money,” whose business it was to “raise the wind,” in order to procure arms. Two smiths (Robert Orrock and William Brown), who had enrolled their names among the “Friends of the People,” were employed to make four thousand pikes; some of which were actually completed, and had been delivered to Watt, and paid for by Downie, in his capacity of treasurer.

Meanwhile the trials of William Skirving, Maurice Margarot, and Joseph Gerald had taken place; but it was not until May that Watt and Downie were apprehended. On the 15th of that month, two sheriff-officers, while searching the house of Watt for some goods which had been secreted, belonging to a bankrupt, discovered some pikes, which they immediately carried to the Sheriff’s Chambers. A warrant was then given to search the whole premises, and also to apprehend the parties. In the cellar, a form of types, from which the address to the military had been printed, as also an additional quantity of pikes, were discovered; and in the house of Orrock, the smith, thirty-three pikes, finished and unfinished, were likewise found.

True bills of indictment having been found against Watt and Downie, the trial of the former took place before the Court of Oyer and Terminer, on the 14th of August 1794; and of the latter, on the 7th of September. The facts set forth in the indictments were fully proven against the prisoners. A letter from Downie—as treasurer to the Committee of Ways and Means, to “Walter Millar, Perth”—acknowledging the receipt of £15, in which he gave an account of the riots in the Theatre,<sup>1</sup> was produced and identified; and Robert Orrock

<sup>1</sup> These riots commenced on Monday night, the 8th of April 1794, when the tragedy of Charles I. was performed. At the end of the second act several gentlemen called to the band in the orchestra to play “God save the King,” during the performance of which a few individuals did not uncover. Some of the more loyal portion of the audience insisted that they should; and from words the matter came to blows. On the next night of performance (the 10th) some attempts were made to create a disturbance, which was speedily got under; but on Saturday, the 12th, the democratic party mustered in greater numbers; and preparations had been made on both sides for a trial of

stated that Downie accompanied Watt to his place at the Water-of-Leith, when the order was given for the pikes. William Brown said he made fifteen pikes by Watt's order, to whom he delivered them; and that, on a line from Watt, Downie paid him twenty-two shillings and sixpence for the fifteen. Margaret Whitecross, who had been at one time a servant of Mr. Downie, on being shown one of the pikes, "declared that she saw a similar one in Mr. Downie's house one morning when she was dressing the dining-room: that Mr. Downie had come home late the previous night: that Mr. Downie's son, Charles, came out of an adjoining closet, where he slept, as soon as he heard her in the room, and took it away; and at this time he had only part of his clothes on, and did not seem to have any other business in that room: that she remembers hearing Mrs. Downie ask her husband what he had done with the large *dividing-knife* which was found in the dining-room?—to which he answered, that he had locked it by: that she never heard her master speak of having such weapons to defend himself; and when she saw it, she thought she never saw such a dividing-knife before." A verdict of guilty was returned on both occasions; and sentence of death passed upon the prisoners.

Watt suffered the extreme punishment of the law according to the form usual in treasonable cases.<sup>1</sup> Previous to his execution, he made a confession of the extent and purport of the measures contemplated by the Committees.

Downie was pardoned, on condition of banishing himself from the British

strength. The play—"Which is the Man"—was allowed to go on to the end without interruption. A few minutes of ominous silence followed, when a voice at last called out for "God save the King," and "off hats." This seemed to be the signal for attack. A general melee ensued, which put an entire stop to the business of the stage, and created the utmost alarm. "It is difficult to say," observes the *Courant* of that period, "which party made the first attack; it was furious beyond example; each party had prepared for the contest by arming themselves with bludgeons; and while the affray lasted, the most serious consequences were apprehended, as both parties fought with determined resolution. Many dreadful blows were given, which brought several individuals to the ground; and the wounded were in danger of being trampled to death in the general confusion. The party, however, who insisted on keeping on their hats, being at length overcome, left the house, and the wounded were carried out. The pit was the principal scene of action." A considerable mob was congregated out of doors anxiously waiting the result.

<sup>1</sup> The execution of Watt, which took place at the west end of the Luckenbooths, was conducted with much solemnity. He was conveyed from the Castle on a black-painted hurdle, drawn by a white horse, amid a procession of the magistracy, guarded by a strong military force. The prisoner, who was assisted in his devotions by the Rev. Principal Baird, exhibited a picture of the most abject dejection. He was wrapped in a great-coat, a red nightcap, (which, on the platform, he exchanged for a white one), with a round hat, his stockings hanging loose, and his whole appearance wretched in the extreme. He was about the age of thirty-six, and was the natural son of a gentleman of fortune and respectability, in the county of Angus, but, as is usual, took the name of his mother. At about ten years of age he was sent to Perth, where he received a good education; and at sixteen he engaged himself with a lawyer; but, from some religious scruples, took a disgust at his employment; and, removing to Edinburgh, was engaged as a clerk to Mr. E. Balfour, bookseller (whose shop was afterwards occupied by the Journal Office), with whom he lived for some years, without any other complaint than the smallness of his salary. Being desirous of becoming a partner of the business, he, by the influence of some friends, prevailed on his father to advance money for that purpose; and then made proposals to his employer; but his offer was rejected. Having money in possession, he entered into the wine and spirit trade, and for some time had tolerable success; but was ruined, it was said, on the commencement of the war with France.





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dominions ; and he died in exile. He was married and had a family. He bore a respectable character as an honest and industrious tradesman ; and had been twenty-four or twenty-five years a member of the Corporation of Goldsmiths, during a considerable period of which he held the office of Treasurer to the Incorporation. His shop was in the Parliament Square.

## No. CXLII.

## MR. THOMAS BLAIR,

LATE OF THE STAMP-OFFICE, EDINBURGH.

THIS is an excellent portraiture of the little gentleman. The upcast eye, and cocked hat, set perpendicularly on the forehead, are highly characteristic.

MR. BLAIR was Deputy-comptroller of the Stamp-Office. To this situation he had been appointed in 1784 ; and he continued until his death to discharge the duties of the office with credit to himself and advantage to the establishment.<sup>1</sup> In growth the Deputy-comptroller was somewhat stunted ; but however niggardly nature had been to him in point of length, she amply compensated for the deficiency in rotundity of person. To use a common phrase, he was “as broad as he was long.” This adjustment, however, by no means proved satisfactory to the aspiring mind of Mr. Blair. Like a certain nobleman, of whom Dean Swift had said—

“ Right tall he made himself for show,  
Though made full short by God ;  
And when all other Dukes did bow,  
This Duke did only nod”—

the Deputy was anxious on all occasions to make himself “right tall ;” and, we doubt not, would have eagerly submitted to any process by which his stature could have been increased. As it was, he managed matters to the best advantage, and even with some degree of ingenuity. He always wore a high-crowned cocked-hat ; and his neatly frizzled and powdered wig was so formed, by the aid of wires, that it sat at least an inch above the scalp of his sconce ; thus to keep up the deception which the high-crowned hat could not in all circumstances be supposed to maintain.

Notwithstanding these little weaknesses, Mr. Blair was a worthy sort of personage, and a jolly companion at the social board. The gentlemen of the Stamp-Office were not deficient in the spirit of good-fellowship peculiar to the times. Once a year they were in the habit of dining together (at their own expense) in Fortune’s tavern, Old Stamp-Office Close ; and as the friends of the higher

<sup>1</sup> He was succeeded by Mr. James Crawford.

officers were admitted to such meetings, a very select and comfortable party was generally formed. On these occasions,

“when smoking viands crowned the festive board,”

none maintained the characteristics of a genuine denizen of “Auld Reekie” with greater ability than Mr. Blair; and whether it might be in the demolition of a sirloin, or in the dissection of a capon, his power in the one, and his science in the other, were equally apparent.

At such jovial meetings the Deputy seldom failed to be very merry; and there was no small degree of wit beneath his elastic wig. He had always some extraordinary incident to narrate; and he generally was himself the hero of the tale. It would be as endless as unprofitable to draw upon the stores of the wonderful which have been preserved by tradition. One specimen may suffice. Among other qualifications he used to descant largely on the extent and retentive power of his memory—“Bless me,” he would say, in reply to some incredulous *non mi recordo*; “I mind the very hour of my birth, and perfectly recollect of my good old mother bidding the midwife close the shutters lest my eyes should be hurt with the light!”

Mr. Blair resided, according to the veritable Peter Williamson, in Buccleuch Street, so late as 1792. He afterwards occupied a house at Hope Park End, and latterly in Rose Street, where he died on the 2d September 1800. He left a daughter, who became the wife of the minister of the parish of Moreham.

#### No. CXLIII.

#### Dispersion o<sup>r</sup> a Sabbath Evening School.

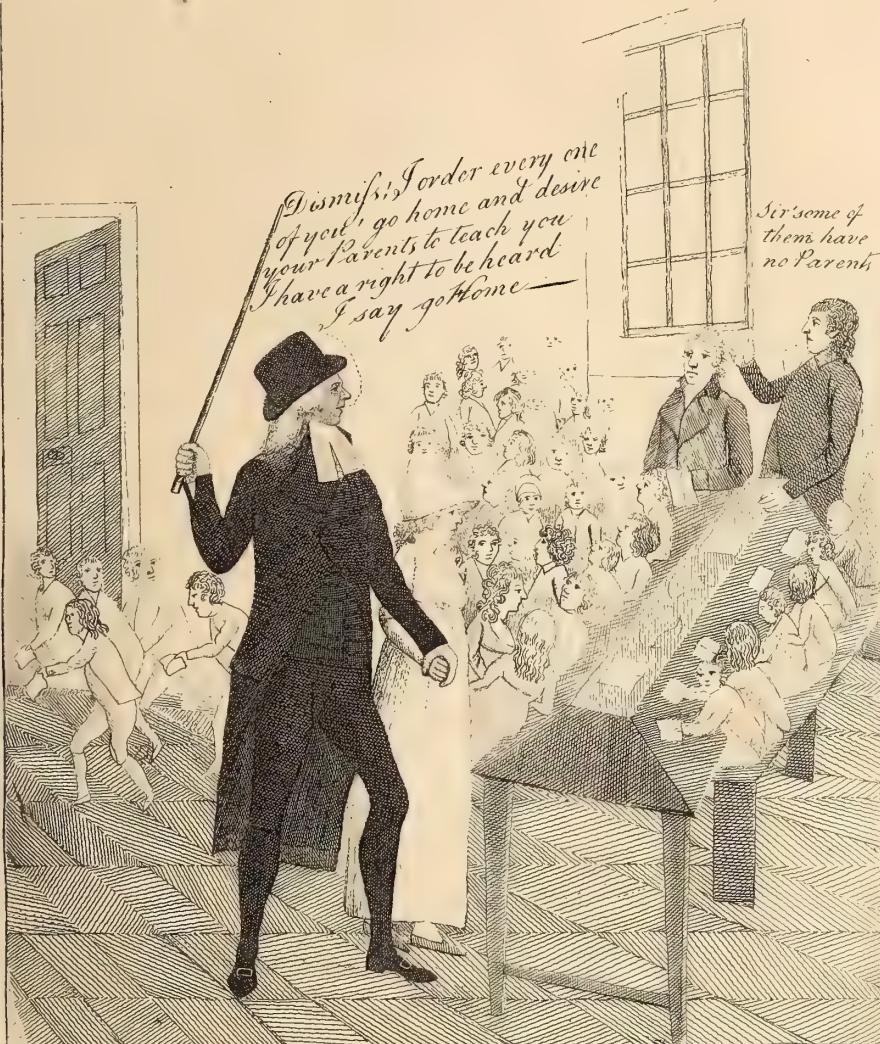
REV. WILLIAM MOODIE, D.D.,

PROFESSOR OF ORIENTAL LANGUAGES, AND MINISTER OF ST. ANDREW'S  
CHURCH, EDINBURGH.

THE scene represented in the etching took place in 1799, during the French Republican War, when political feelings ran high, and when the essays of Paine, and similar writers, were believed to have gained many proselytes to the cause of democracy.<sup>1</sup> At that time the benevolent plan of Sabbath School teaching, which had been recently introduced, was viewed by many in a very different light from that in which it is happily now considered. Having been first espoused and organised by sectarians, and its operations principally confined to the lower orders, the system was not only in some degree obnoxious to those

<sup>1</sup> The trials of George Mealmaker and others, for illegal combination and sedition, occurred about this period.

*MODERN MODERATION STRIKINGLY DISPLAYED*



OR  
A MINISTERIAL VISITATION of a SABBATH EVENING SCHOOL



who plumed themselves on more respectable connections, but was politically viewed as a hotbed of disaffection and sedition. Under this impression, the General Assembly bent all its influence against the practice; and, in the "Pastoral Admonition" of 1799 (alluded to in our notice of the Rev. Rowland Hill), the teachers of Sabbath Schools were described as persons "notoriously disaffected to the civil constitution of the country." The parochial clergy throughout Scotland were consequently opposed to such schools; and, in several instances, carried their authority so far as to order them to be suppressed.

In the case in question, the teachers, with the view of securing his approbation and patronage, had requested Dr. Moodie to visit the class. The Doctor accordingly came; but, without condescending to examine the pupils, or inquire into the motives of the teachers, instantly commanded the scholars to disperse. The friends of the Professor were afterwards anxious to hush up the matter; but the artist, who was an uncompromising censor of the times, produced his "Modern Moderation," and gave full publicity to the circumstance. In apostrophising the genius of Kay on this occasion, as "the lash o' Edinbro' city," the author of the following unpublished lines declares—

“ Thou’st gien yon billy sic a whauker,  
    ‘Twill dash his pride—  
For now his faut appears the blacker,  
    An’ wiina hide.  
\*       \*       \*       \*       \*  
Thy limner fame is widely spread—  
    Wha’s like John Kay?  
Even London ne’er thy match has bred—  
    Thou’ll live for aye.”

The REV. DR. WILLIAM MOODIE, whose figure in the foreground cannot be mistaken, was the son of the clergyman, at one time of Gartly, near Strathbogie, and latterly of Monymmeal, in Fifeshire. He was first ordained to the church in Kirkcaldy, and from thence translated to Edinburgh in 1787. As a preacher, he was esteemed for the chaste style of his elocution, and the classic polish of his composition. He was an excellent scholar, and especially conversant with the languages of the East. In 1793, he was appointed Professor of Hebrew in the University of Edinburgh, the duties of which he discharged for nineteen years. Besides Hebrew and Chaldaic, which more properly belonged to the professorship, he directed his attention to the other Eastern languages; and was the first to introduce Persiac into his class—which has since been continued by his successors. His conduct towards his students was that of a gentleman and friend.

Dr. Moodie died on the 11th June 1812. He had been long in a delicate state of health, and was confined for a considerable period prior to his death. A posthumous volume of his sermons was given to the public.

No. CXLIV.

THOMAS ELDER, ESQ. OF FORNETH,

LATE LORD PROVOST OF EDINBURGH.

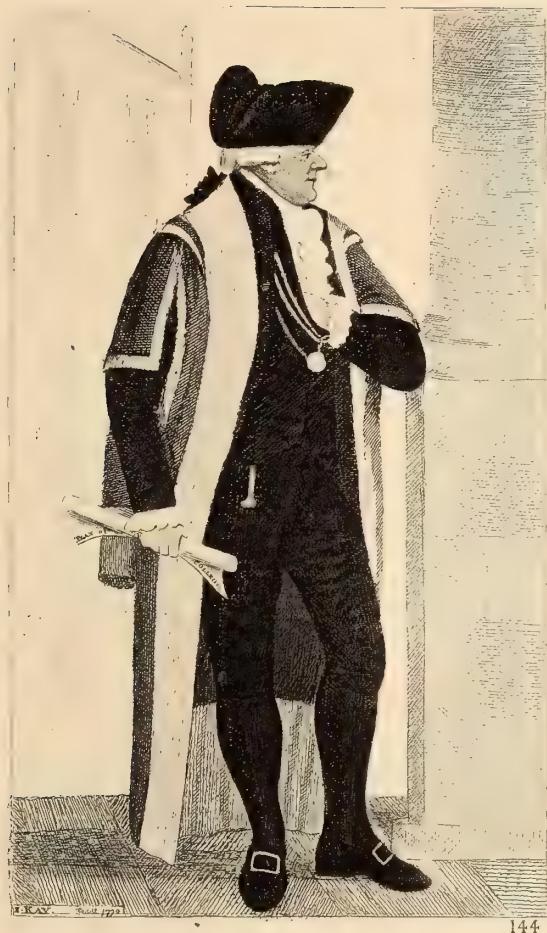
THIS gentleman held the office of Chief Magistrate of Edinburgh at the following different periods—first, from 1788 till 1790; again, from 1792 till 1794; and, lastly from 1796 till 1798.

Great responsibility was attachable to the office during the second period of his provostship, in consequence of the disturbed state of the country, and the measures of agitation resorted to by the “Friends of the People.” Provost Elder exerted himself vigorously to check the inroad of democracy. Although the troops then scattered over Scotland were under two thousand, he ventured, assisted by a few only of the more respectable citizens of Edinburgh, to suppress the meeting of the memorable British Convention, held on the 5th December 1793, taking ten or twelve of the principal members prisoners; and, in a similar manner, on the 12th of December, he dissolved another meeting, held in the cock-pit at the Grassmarket.

On the 13th January 1794 an immense crowd had assembled on occasion of the trial of Maurice Margarot, for the purpose of accompanying him to the Court of Justiciary. In anticipation of this, the Magistrates, City-Guard, and constables, with a number of respectable inhabitants, met at an early hour in the Merchants’ Hall, and sallying forth, with the Chief Magistrate at their head, about ten o’clock, they met Margarot and a number of his friends walking in procession under an ornamental arch, on which the words “Liberty, Justice,” etc. were inscribed. The canopy was instantly seized and thrown over the east side of the North Bridge; and, with the assistance of the crew of a frigate lying in Leith Roads, the crowd was dispersed, and the two arch-bearers captured.

At a meeting of the Town Council on the 9th September, immediately previous to the annual change in that body, they “unanimously returned their thanks, and voted a piece of plate to the Right Hon. the Lord Provost, for his spirited and prudent conduct while in office, and especially during the late commotions.”

On the formation of the Royal Edinburgh Volunteers, in the summer of 1794, Mr. Elder intended, on retiring from the provostship, to enter the ranks as a common volunteer; but this resolution was rendered nugatory by a mark of distinction emanating from the members of the association. For obvious reasons the commission of Colonel was to be invested in the Chief Magistrate



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for the time being ; and it was the wish of the volunteers that the commissions should, as far as possible, be held by gentlemen who had served with reputation in his Majesty's regular forces. An exception, however, which at once testified their estimation of his character, was made in the case of Provost Elder, for the volunteers unanimously recommended him to his Majesty to be their First Lieutenant-Colonel.

In 1797 the Principal and Professors of the University requested him to sit for his portrait, to be preserved in the University library. Mr. Elder accordingly sat to the late Sir Henry Raeburn, who finished an excellent likeness in his best style—from which a mezzotinto engraving was afterwards published. Provost Elder merited this compliment, which had previously only been conferred on men eminent for learning or science, by being, in addition to his general usefulness as a magistrate and citizen, prominently instrumental in maturing the design of rebuilding the College, which probably would have been finished during his lifetime, had it not been for the exigencies of the war.

In 1795 Mr. Elder was appointed Postmaster-General for Scotland—an honour which testified that his services had been highly appreciated by his Majesty, and which was considered by his fellow-citizens as no more than a proper reward.

Throughout the whole course of his life, both in public and private business, Mr. Elder displayed “great and persevering activity in all his undertakings, inflexible integrity in his conduct, and perfect firmness in what he judged to be right. These talents and virtues were exerted without pomp or affectation ; on the contrary, with the utmost openness and simplicity of manners ; and it was often remarked of him that he could refuse with a better grace than many others could confer a favour.” Under his guidance the political measures of the city were regulated with much tact and propriety ; and the interest of the ruling party was never more firmly or honourably maintained.

Mr. Elder's acceptance of the provostship the third time, was looked upon with a degree of uneasiness by his friends. His health had been visibly impaired by the harassing nature of his duties while formerly in office ; and they were afraid a renewal of the anxiety and fatigue inseparable from the situation of Chief Magistrate, even in the quietest times, would prove too much for his weakened constitution. Mr. Elder was himself aware of the danger, but he could not “decline the task consistently with his strict notions of public duty.”

The fears of his friends were too well founded. His strength continued gradually to decline, and before the end of 1798 his health was altogether in a hopeless state. He died at Forneth on the 29th May 1799, aged sixty-two.

Mr. Elder was the eldest son of Mr. William Elder of Loaning, and married in 1765 Emilia Husband, eldest daughter of Mr. Paul Husband of Logie, merchant in Edinburgh, by whom he left a son and four daughters.<sup>1</sup> He carried on business as a wine merchant in the premises opposite the Tron

<sup>1</sup> The eldest was married to the Rev. Principal Baird ; the second to the late John M'Ritchie Esq. of Craigton.

Church, sometime possessed by Mr. James Hill, grocer, where he realised a considerable fortune. For some time he resided in the house in Princes Street, afterwards occupied by Mr. Fortune, and long known as Fortune's Tontine, and subsequently at No. 85 Princes Street.

## No. CXLV.

## THE RIGHT HON. LORD VISCOUNT DUNCAN.

ADAM, LORD VISCOUNT DUNCAN, one of the most celebrated names in the annals of the British navy, was born at Dundee on the 1st July 1731. He was the younger son of Alexander Duncan, Esq. of Lundie and Seaside, in the county of Forfar, by Helen, a daughter of John Haldane, Esq. of Gleneagles and Aberuthven.

He entered the navy at the age of sixteen, as midshipman in the *Shoreham* frigate, in which he served for three years, under the command of his maternal relative, Captain Robert Haldane. From thence he was transferred to the *Centurion*, which then carried the broad pennant of Commodore Keppel. While on the Mediterranean station he had the good fortune, by his intrepidity, steadiness, and seamanship, to attract the notice of the Commodore; and in 1755, when Keppel was selected to command the transport ships destined for North America, he placed the name of Duncan at the head of those he had the privilege of recommending for promotion. He was consequently raised to the rank of Lieutenant, in which capacity he was present at the attack on the French settlement of Goree, on the coast of Africa, where he was wounded, and distinguished himself so much by his bravery, that, before the return of the expedition, he was promoted to be first Lieutenant of Keppel's own ship, the *Torbay*. Shortly after he was raised to the rank of Commander.

In 1760 Duncan was appointed Captain of the *Valiant*, of seventy-four guns, on board which Keppel hoisted his flag as commander of the fleet destined for Belleisle, where the newly promoted Captain had the honour of taking possession of the Spanish ships when the town surrendered. In the same ship he was present, in 1762, at the reduction of the Havannah.

In 1773 Captain Duncan had the singular fortune of sitting on the court-martial held on his friend and patron Admiral Keppel, who was not only honourably acquitted, but immediately afterwards received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament.

Having obtained the command of the *Monarch* seventy-four, the Captain's next expedition was with the squadron sent, under Sir George Rodney, to the relief of Gibraltar, in which they succeeded, and also had the good fortune to capture a fleet of fifteen Spanish merchantmen, with their convoy. Immediately



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afterwards, on the 16th of January 1779, a Spanish squadron of eleven ships of the line hove in sight off Cape St. Vincent. The British fleet directly bore down upon them, when Captain Duncan was the first to come up with the enemy. His daring conduct having been observed by his no less resolute Commander, he was warned of the danger of rushing into a position where he would be exposed to a very unequal contest. "Just what I want," he coolly replied ; "I wish to be among them." The *Monarch* dashed on, and was instantly alongside a ship of larger size, while two of no less magnitude lay within musket-shot. A desperate engagement ensued, but the Captain soon succeeded in disabling the latter, when, directing all his fire against the *St. Augustin*, that vessel struck in less than half-an-hour ; then pushing into the heat of the engagement, the *Monarch* contributed materially towards the victory which was that day obtained over the Spanish flag.

In 1782 Captain Duncan was appointed to the command of the *Blenheim* of ninety guns, and was present at the engagement with the united fleet of France and Spain in October, off the mouth of the Straits of Gibraltar. For several years after this, during the peace, he remained in command of the *Edgar* guardship at Portsmouth ; and, on the 14th September 1789, was made Rear-Admiral of the Blue. When the late Earl Spencer came to the Admiralty, he inquired for "Keppel's Captain," and, in February 1795, appointed him Commander-in-Chief of the North Sea Fleet.

It is needless to follow him through his arduous services while holding this important command. When the fate of Ireland hung upon the balance ; when a powerful fleet was concentrated at the Texel, for the invasion of that ill-fated country—torn to pieces by internal faction—Admiral Duncan suddenly found himself deserted by his fleet, and left, in the face of the enemy, with only one line-of-battle ship besides his own. The veteran Admiral, in spite of these disheartening circumstances, maintained his post undaunted. He continued to menace the Texel, by keeping up signals, as if his whole fleet were in the distance ; and thus prevented the Dutch from attempting to leave their anchorage.

To give a detailed account of Admiral Duncan's memorable conduct during the mutiny at the Nore would lead us beyond our limits. Suffice it to say, that by a judicious blending of firmness and conciliation, he entirely quelled the first symptoms of insubordination in his own ship, the *Venerable*, and also in the *Adamant*, Captain (now Sir William) Hotham—the only ship which remained with him to the last. His speech to the crew of the *Venerable* is to be found in the naval history of the country. We may, however, mention the following anecdote, for the authenticity of which Sir William Hotham has vouched. When told on one occasion that the Dutch fleet was getting under weigh, he directed Sir William to anchor the *Adamant* alongside the *Venerable* in the narrow part of the channel, and to fight her till she sank, adding—"I have taken the depth of water ; and, when the *Venerable* goes down, my flag will still fly."

On the termination of the mutiny at the Nore, Admiral Duncan was immedi-

ately rejoined by the rest of his fleet ; and, after cruising for four months, he left a small squadron of observation, and set sail for Yarmouth Roads. He had scarcely reached the Roads, however, when he received intelligence that the enemy were at sea. He instantly gave signal for a general chase, and soon came up with them between Camperdown and Egmont, where the well-known and decisive naval combat of the 11th October 1797 ensued, in which De Winter and two other Dutch Admirals were taken prisoners, and the Dutch fleet annihilated. Admiral Duncan's address, previous to the engagement with Admiral de Winter, was both laconic and humorous : " Gentlemen, you see a severe *Winter* approaching ; I have only to advise you to keep up a good fire."

## No. CXLVI.

## ADMIRAL DUNCAN

## ON THE QUARTER-DECK.

THE "hero of Camperdown" is here represented on the quarter-deck of the *Venerable*, in the act, it may be supposed, of issuing orders to the fleet ; while a partial view of the contending ships is given in the distance.

Immediately after the victory, Admiral Duncan was created a peer, by the title of Viscount Duncan of Camperdown and Baron Duncan of Lundie ; and a pension of £3000 a-year was granted during his own life and that of the two next succeeding heirs to the peerage. He was presented with the freedom of the city of London, together with a sword of two hundred guineas' value, from the corporation. Gold medals, in commemoration of the victory, were also given to all the Admirals and Captains of the fleet, while the public testified their respect by wearing certain articles of apparel named after the engagement.<sup>1</sup>

On this occasion the inhabitants of Edinburgh were not to be satisfied with any cold or formal expression of esteem ; they resolved upon a public and special demonstration in honour of their gallant countryman. The animating scene is thus described by the Edinburgh journals of the period :—

"The tribute of gratitude and respect universally due by every Briton to the gallant Lord Duncan was yesterday (7th February 1798) paid by his fellow-townsman, the inhabitants of Edinburgh. The whole brigade of volunteers were called out in honour of the day ; and the muster was a very full one, between two and three thousand. The different corps, having assembled in Hope Park and other places of rendezvous about two o'clock, soon after entered George's Square, by the

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<sup>1</sup> The cloth worn on this occasion was a species of tartan, of a large pattern, intended as emblematical of the species of tactics pursued by the British Admiral.





north-east corner, through Charles' Street, and proceeded through the Square in slow time, passing Lord Duncan's house, before which his lordship stood uncovered, saluting them as they passed. Here the procession was joined by a naval car, on which was placed the British and his lordship's flag, flying above that of Admiral de Winter, attended by a body of seamen; then followed, in carriages, Lord Adam Gordon and his Staff—Lord Viscount Duncan—Captain Inglis of Redhall—the Lord Provost, and the eldest Bailie. The troops marched round the Square, filing off by Windmill Street, Chapel Street, Nicolson Street, across the South and North Bridges—the infantry leading, and the cavalry closing the procession. At the end of the North Bridge the populace took the horses from Lord Duncan's carriage, and drew it during the remainder of the procession, which proceeded through the principal streets of the New Town. The arrangement of the military procession, which in beauty and grandeur was far beyond any ever seen in this country, did honour to those who planned it. It was one of those happy, but rare instances, in which expectation is exceeded by reality. An elegant entertainment was given to his lordship, in Fortune's tavern, by the Lord Provost and Magistrates, at which he was presented with the freedom of the city in a gold box of elegant workmanship."

Lord Duncan retired from the command of the North Sea Squadron in 1800, being desirous of spending the remainder of his days in private life; but he did not long enjoy his retirement. He died of apoplexy at Cornhill, on his way from London, in 1804.

In a brief sketch such as the present, it would be out of place to dilate on the character of one so generally known as Admiral Duncan, or to advert to the importance of those services which his superior genius enabled him to perform. As a naval officer he is entitled to every credit, both for the soundness of his tactics, and the novel daring and decisive nature of his movements; while in domestic life he was remarkable for those amiable qualities which ever accompany true greatness.

His Lordship married, in 1777, Henrietta, daughter of Lord President Dundas, by whom he had four sons and five daughters. Robert, the second son, in consequence of the demise of his elder brother, Alexander, succeeded to the titles and estates, and was created Earl of Camperdown in 1831. He married, in January 1805, Janet, daughter of the late Sir Hugh Hamilton Dalrymple of Bargeny and North Berwick, Bart., by whom he has issue. The third son, Henry, afterwards Sir Henry, entered the navy, and rose to the rank of Post-Captain. He died suddenly on 1st November 1835. He was considered a bright ornament to the navy, and one of the most promising officers. A magnificent monument to his memory has recently been erected in the neighbourhood of London by those who served with him during the war.

The widow of Admiral Duncan survived him many years, and died in her house in George Square,<sup>1</sup> November 1832, lamented by all who knew her. She was a lady of the most bland and attractive manners, and of eminent piety.

<sup>1</sup> This house, which is now occupied as the Southern Academy, still remains the property of the Earl. The celebrated painting of the Battle of Camperdown, by Copely—which cost £1000, and to which the inhabitants of Edinburgh had access annually for many years on the anniversary of the victory—has, since the death of the Dowager, been removed to Camperdown House, Forfarshire.

No. CXLVII.

LORD HAILES,

ONE OF THE JUDGES OF THE COURT OF SESSION.

SIR DAVID DALRYMPLE, LORD HAILES, was born at Edinburgh in 1726. He was descended from the family of Stair ; his grandfather, who was Lord Advocate for Scotland during the reign of George I., being the youngest son of the first Viscount Stair. His father, who held the office of auditor in the Court of Exchequer, was Sir James Dalrymple, Bart. of Hailes, and his mother, Lady Christian Hamilton, a daughter of Thomas, sixth Earl of Haddington.

Young Dalrymple entered upon his studies at Eton, where he acquired a considerable knowledge of the classics, and was distinguished by a uniform propriety and rectitude of conduct. He next revisited his native city, and attended the University. From thence he repaired to Utrecht, where he studied civil law ; and he finally returned to Edinburgh in 1746.

It is not certain whether he originally contemplated following the law as a profession—his genius having manifested a decided bias for the prosecution of general literature, and an ardent predilection for antiquarian inquiry. The death of his father, however, who left his estate heavily encumbered, and a large family to provide for, speedily determined Sir David in his choice ; and he became a member of the Faculty of Advocates in 1748.

His success at the bar was by no means so decisive as those who knew the extent of his acquirements either could have wished or expected. A peculiar diffidence of manner—a scrupulously nice estimate of propriety—and a too rigid attention to formality, tended materially to limit his practice. His pleadings were always distinguished by a comprehensive view of the subject ; yet, being addressed more to the understanding than the feelings, they frequently fell short of producing the effect accomplished by the more flowery, impassioned, and not unfrequently unfair appeals of even his less talented contemporaries.

Notwithstanding this defect—if defect it may be called—Sir David practised at the bar with much reputation for eighteen years ; and was elevated to the bench on the death of Lord Nisbet, in 1766, when he assumed the title of Lord Hailes. As a judge, he was distinguished for his critical acumen—unwearied diligence—unswerving integrity—and a chaste and concise manner of expression, which, although not the most useful qualification in a pleader, adds peculiar dignity to the bearing of a judge. It has been remarked, however, that the same attention to minutiae which adhered to him while at the bar, continued to mar, in some degree, his usefulness on the bench, and detracted from that veneration which his other judicial excellences would have commanded.



*Iullum, et tenacem propositi virum  
Non ciuium ardor prava jubentium,  
Non vultus insolantis Tyranni  
Monte quatit solida,*



In the “Court of Session Garland,” by Boswell, the biographer of Johnson, the hypercritical accuracy of his lordship is thus alluded to :—

“This cause,” cries Hailes, “to judge I can’t pretend,  
For *justice*, I perceive, wants an *e* at the end.”<sup>1</sup>

In 1776 he became one of the Lords of Justiciary ; and his conduct as a judge in the criminal court elicited universal approbation. It had been too much the practice of judges to “throw their weight into the scale of the crown,” acting more as *public prosecutors* than as impartial arbiters. Not so with Lord Hailes : his conduct was regulated by a different sense of duty. While he held the scales of Justice, his conduct towards the accused was distinguished for impartiality ; and wherever a doubt arose in the course of a criminal prosecution, he never failed to give the culprit the benefit of it.

No judge, perhaps, ever presided in a court of justiciary, who supported the dignity of his station with greater propriety, or invested the forms of procedure with greater solemnity. The manner in which he administered the oaths of court was deeply impressive. “Rising slowly from his seat,” says his biographer, “with a gravity peculiarly his own, he pronounced the words in a manner so serious, as to impress the most profligate mind with the conviction that he was himself awed with the immediate presence of that awful Majesty to whom the appeal was made. It is perhaps impossible for human vigilance or sagacity altogether to prevent perjury in courts of justice ; but he was a villain of no common order that could perjure himself in the presence of Lord Hailes.”

High as his lordship stands in the memory of his country as a judge of the land, he is still better known to the world as a scholar and an author. Those hours of relaxation from official duties, which others usually spend in amusement, were sedulously devoted to the service of literature. His historical researches are peculiarly valuable ; and he was the first writer who threw aside those fictions by which Scottish history had previously been disfigured. The literary labours of Lord Hailes extend over a period of thirty-nine years—from the date of the first publication, in 1751, till the date of his last, in 1790 ; and the works issued under his own superintendence amount to almost an equal number.

Although eminently qualified by his acquirements to become one of the brightest ornaments of social life, his lordship’s intercourse with society was very limited. Among his many eminent contemporaries, there were only a few persons with whom he lived on terms of familiar intercourse ; and these were “selected as much on account of their moral and religious worth as for their genius and learning.”

In theology Lord Hailes entertained very different views from those held by

<sup>1</sup> This couplet is said to refer to an actual occurrence, Lord Hailes having seriously objected to a law-paper wherein the word *justice* had been inadvertently spelt without the final *e*. As a farther instance of the finical nicey and minute accuracy of his lordship, it may be stated, that, wherever he detected the smallest literal error or typographical inaccuracy in any of the printed papers laid before him, he never failed to send for the agent in order to reprimand him ; and even when it was explained to his lordship that the paper had been printed in the utmost hurry, and that the workmen had been employed all night upon it, he could not be induced to overlook the fault.

many of his compeers of last century ; and the “French Philosophy,” as it was called, found in him a determined opponent. To the great work of Gibbon, the “Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire,” may be attributed some of his most laborious translations, in the critical notes to which the false insinuations and historical inaccuracies of that author are ably exposed.

For some time previous to the year 1790, the constitution of Lord Hailes had been in a very enfeebled state ; yet he continued to prosecute his favourite studies to the last, and performed his duty on the bench till within three days of his death, which occurred at New Hailes on the 29th of November 1792.<sup>1</sup>

His lordship was twice married—first to Anne Brown, only daughter of Lord Coalstoun, by whom he had two daughters, the eldest of whom inherited the estate.<sup>2</sup> His second wife, Helen Fergusson, youngest daughter of Lord Kilkerran, had also one daughter.<sup>3</sup> Having no male issue, the baronetcy (which is now extinct) descended to his nephew, eldest son of his brother John Dalrymple, who held the office of Lord Provost of Edinburgh in 1770 and 1771.

An excellent funeral sermon was preached on his lordship’s death by Dr. Carlyle of Inveresk, in which he drew a glowing character of one of the most worthy of all the learned men of last century, who have done so much honour to Scotland.

There is an anecdote of Lord Hailes while at the bar, illustrative of his just feeling and native goodness of heart. He then held the office of Advocate-depute, and had gone to Stirling in his official capacity. On the first day of the Court, he was in no haste to bring on the proceedings ; and, being met by a brother of the bar, was asked—Why there was no trial this forenoon ? “There are,” said Sir David, “some unhappy culprits to be tried for their lives, and therefore it is proper they have time to confer for a little with their men of law.” “That is of very little consequence,” said the other. “Last year I came to visit Lord Kames when lie was here on the circuit, and he appointed me counsel for a man accused of a capital offence. Though I had very little time to prepare, yet I made a very decent speech.” “Pray, sir,” said Sir David, “was your client acquitted or condemned ?” “O,” replied the other, “most unjustly condemned.” “That, sir,” said the Advocate-depute, “is no good reason for hurrying on trials.”

Religion was a topic upon which Lord Hailes was peculiarly sensitive. When the late Mr. Smellie—well known in the republic of letters—was about to

<sup>1</sup> In “*M’Nish’s Anatomy of Sleep*” there is a strange story relative to the somnolency of the learned judge, the accuracy of which is at least doubtful. He seldom passed much time at the dinner-table ; and frequently, long before the other members of the family had retired, resumed his literary labours at a small table in the same apartment, without at all feeling disturbed by the conversation going on. He had a large library at New Hailes ; but he always studied and wrote in the family dining-room.

<sup>2</sup> The estates were destined by the older titles to the heir-male ; but this being merely a “simple tailzie,” as it is called, Lord Hailes had it in his power to alter the succession. A curious anecdote is related in the *Traditions of Edinburgh* respecting his lordship’s will ; but it is not accurate. The conveyance was found, not by a “female servant” while cleaning out the house in New Street, but by persons properly authorised, on the first or second day after the funeral. It was carefully wrapt up in one of the drawers of a small chest in his lordship’s dressing-room.

<sup>3</sup> This lady was married to her cousin, the grandson of Lord Kilkerran.

undertake the translation of *Buffon's Natural History*, he endeavoured to dissuade him from the undertaking, solely on account of the “atheistical parts,” which it contained. The following is his lordship’s letter:—

“*New Hailes, 11th July 1779.*

“Sir—I received your proposals for publishing the *Natural History of Buffon*. To make the work useful, a confutation of the atheistical parts of it ought to be added in the notes. Without that addition it would do great hurt to an ignorant nation, already too much vitiated by French philosophy. It will be to make poison cheaper and more pleasant. My reverend friend, Professor Monro, held Buffon in sovereign contempt, and ranged him in the class of Indian philosophers, with their bull and their tortoise.

“Not many years ago, there was published a book of travels: it had a run merely for its French philosophy; for it was ignorant beyond probability or even imagination. The authors of the *Edinburgh Review* were the only persons who, to my knowledge, confuted it; and yet they were represented as enemies of religion. This shows that it is dangerous to publish such books as those of Buffon, when treatises of less merit are admired; and when confutations of such treatises are overlooked, because the confuters are ill thought of and traduced. But what can we say of an age which admires the blundering romances of Raynal?—I am, etc.

DAVID DALRYMPLE.”

Lord Hailes lived sometime in the Old Mint House, foot of Todrick’s Wynd; he next occupied a house in what is called “the Society,” Brown’s Square; and latterly removed to New Street, on the north side of the Canongate. His general residence, however, even before his promotion to the bench, was New Hailes.<sup>1</sup> The house in New Street (No. 23) was afterwards possessed by Mr. Ruthven, the ingenious inventor of the Ruthven printing-press.

The following is a pretty accurate catalogue of his works:—

- Sacred Poems, or a Collection of Translations and Paraphrases from the Holy Scriptures; by various authors. Edinburgh, 1751, 12mo. Dedicated to Charles, Lord Hope; with a Preface of ten pages.
- Proposals for carrying on a certain Public Work in the City of Edinburgh. Edinburgh, 1751, 12mo. *A jeu d'esprit.*
- The Wisdom of Solomon, Wisdom of Jesus the Son of Sirach, or Ecclesiasticus, 12mo. Edin. 1755.
- Select Discourses (in number nine), by John Smith, late Fellow of Queen’s College, Cambridge, 12mo. pp. 291. Edinburgh, 1756; with a Preface of five pages—“many quotations from the learned languages translated—and notes added, containing allusions to ancient mythology, and to the erroneous philosophy which prevailed in the days of the author—various inaccuracies of style have been corrected, and harsh expressions softened.”
- World, No. 140. September 4, 1755. A meditation among books.
- Ditto, No. 147. Thursday, October 23, 1755. “Both these papers are replete with wit and humour; and the last one is introduced with a high character of it and of the author, by Mr. Moore, the editor and chief author of the World.”
- Ditto, No. 204. Thursday, Nov. 25, 1756. “A piece of admirable wit,” “Good Things, and the propriety of taxing them.”
- A Discourse of the unnatural and vile Conspiracy

attempted by John, Earl of Gowry and his Brother against his Majesty’s Person, at Saint Johnstoun, upon the 5th of August 1600. No date [1755.]

British Songs, Sacred to Love and Virtue. Edin. 1756, 12mo.

A Sermon, which might have been preached in East Lothian upon the 25th day of October 1761, on Acts xxvii, 1, 2. “The barbarous people showed us no little kindness.” Edinburgh, 1761, pp. 25, 12mo. “Occasioned by the country people pillaging the wreck of two vessels, viz. the *Betsy Cunningham*, and the Leith packet, *Pitcairn*, from London to Leith, cast away on the shore between Dunbar and North Berwick. All the passengers on board the former, in number seventeen, perished; five on board the latter, October 16, 1761. Reprinted at Edinburgh, 1794, 8vo. The first edition is scarce.”

Memorials and Letters relating to the History of Britain in the reign of James I., published from the originals. Glasgow, 1762. Addressed to Philip Yorke, Viscount Roystoun, pp. 151. “From a collection in the Advocates’ Library, by Balfour of Denmyln.” An enlarged edition was printed at Glasgow, 1766, 8vo.

The Works of the ever-memorable Mr. John Hales of Eton, now first collected together, in 3 vols. Glasgow, 1765; preface of three pages. Dedicated to William (Warburton), Bishop of Gloucester.—

<sup>1</sup> New Hailes is beautifully situated a little to the west of Musselburgh, near the line of the Railway to Edinburgh.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

"The edition said to be undertaken with his approbation; obsolete words altered, with corrections in spelling and punctuation."

A specimen of a book entitled *Ane Compendious Booke of Godly and Spiritual Sangs*, collectit out of sundrie parts of the Scripture, with sundrie of other Ballates changed out of Prophaine Sangs, for avoyding of Sin and Harlotrie, with augmentation of sundrie Gude and Godly Ballates, not contained in the first edition. Edinburgh, printed by Andro Hart, 12mo. Edinburgh, 1765, pp. 42; with a Glossary of four pages.

Memorials and Letters relating to the History of Britain in the reign of Charles I., published from the Originals. Glasgow, 1766, pp. 189. Chiefly collected from the manuscripts of the Rev. Robert Wodrow, author of the History of the Church of Scotland. Inscribed to Robert Dundas of Arniston, Lord President of the Court of Session.

An Account of the Preservation of Charles II. after the Battle of Worcester, drawn up by himself; to which are added, his Letters to several persons. Glasgow, 1766, pp. 190, from the MSS. of Mr. Pepys, dictated to him by the King himself, and communicated by Dr. Sandby, Master of Magdalen College. The Letters are collected from various sources, and some of them are now first published. Dedicated to Thomas Holles, Duke of Newcastle, Chancellor of the University of Cambridge. Some copies have a reprinted title page, dated Edinburgh, 1801, with one or two additional Letters, and a Portrait prefixed of General Thomas Dalziel. The Secret Correspondence between Sir Robert Cecil and James VI. 12mo, 1766.

A Catalogue of the Lords of Session from the Institution of the College of Justice, in the year 1532, with Historical Notes. *Suum cuique—repentet posteritas.* Edinburgh, 1767, 4to, pp. 26.

A Specimen of Notes on the Statute Law of Scotland. No date, 8vo, very rare.

A Specimen of similar Notes during the Reign of Mary Queen of Scots. No date, 8vo, very rare.

The Private Correspondence of Dr. Francis Atterbury, Bishop of Rochester, and his friends, in 1725, never before published. Printed in 1768, 4to. Advertisement pp. 2. Letters, pp. 10. fac-simile of the first letter from Bp. Atterbury to John Cameron of Lochiel prefixed.

An Examination of some of the Arguments for the high Antiquity of *Regiam Majestatem*; and an Inquiry into the Authenticity of the *Leges Malcolmii*. Edinburgh, 1769, 4to, pp. 52.

Historical Memorials concerning the Provincial Councils of the Scottish Clergy, from the earliest accounts to the era of the Reformation. Edinburgh, 1769, 4to, pp. 41.—*Nota.* Having no high opinion of the popularity of his writings, he prefixes to this work the following motto:—"Si delectamur quum scribimus, quis est tam invidus qui ab eo nos abducat? sin laboramus, quis est qui alienaz modum statuat industria?"—Cicero.

Canons of the Church of Scotland, drawn up in the Provincial Councils held at Perth, A.D. 1242, and 1269. Edinburgh, 1769, 4to, pp. 48.

Ancient Scottish Poems, published from the MS. of George Barnattyne, 1568. Edinburgh, 1770, 12mo. Preface, six pages. Poems, pp. 221, very curious Notes, pp. 92. Glossary, and list of passages and words not understood, pp. 14.

The Additional Case of Elizabeth, claiming the title and dignity of Countess of Sutherland, By her Guardians. Wherein the facts and arguments in support of her claim are more fully stated, and the errors in the additional cases for the claimants are detected, 4to.

This singularly learned and able case was subscribed by Alexander Wedderburn (afterwards Lord Chancellor and Earl of Rosslyn) and Sir Adam Ferguson, but is the well-known work of Lord Hailes. It ought not to be regarded merely as a Law Paper of great ability, but as a Treatise of profound research into the history and antiquity of many important and general points of succession and family history. Introduction, pp. 21. The first four chapters, pp. 70. The fifth and sixth chapters, pp. 177.

Remarks on the History of Scotland. By Sir David Dalrymple.

"Utinam tam facile vera inventire possem, quam falsa convincere."—Cicero.

Edinburgh, 1773. Inscribed to George Lord Lyttleton, in nine chapters, pp. 284, 12mo. Specimen of a Glossary of the Scottish Language. No date, 8vo.

Remarks on the Latin Poems of Dr. Pitcairn, in the Edinburgh Magazine for February 1774.

Huberti Langueti Epistolæ ad Philipum Sydenium Equitem Angulum. Accurante D. Dalrymple de Hailes, Eq. Edinburgh, 1776, 8vo. Inscribed to Lord Chief Baron Smythe.—Virorum Eruditorum testimonia de Langueto, pp. 7. Epistolæ, 289. Index Nominum, pp. 41.

Annals of Scotland, from the Accession of Malcolm III., surnamed Canmore, to the Accession of Robert I. By Sir David Dalrymple. Edinburgh, 1776, pp. 311. Appendix, pp. 51.

Tables of the Succession of the Kings of Scotland from Malcolm III. to Robert I., their marriages, children, and time of their death; and also of the Kings of England and France, and of the Popes who were their contemporaries.

Chronological Abridgment of the Volume, pp. 30. The Appendix contains eight Dissertations.

1. Of the Law of Evenus and Mercheta Mulierum, pp. 17.
2. A Commentary on the 22d Statute of William the Lion, pp. 8.
3. Of the 18th Statute of Alexander III., pp. 5.
4. Bull of Pope Innocent IV., pp. 6.
5. Of Walter Stewart, Earl of Menteith, 1296, pp. 7.
6. Of M'Duff, slain at Falkirk in 1298, pp. 3.
7. Of the Death of John Comyn, 10th February 1305, pp. 4.
8. Of the Origin of the House of Stewart, pp. 6.

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Annals of Scotland, from the Accession of Robert I. surnamed Bruce, to the Accession of the House of Stewart. By Sir David Dalrymple. Edinburgh, 1779, 4to, pp. 277. Appendix, pp. 54. containing—

1. Of the Manner of the Death of Marjory, daughter of Robert I., pp. 7.
2. Journal of the Campaign of Edward III., 1327, pp. 9.

3. Of the Genealogy of the Family of Seton in the fourteenth century.
  4. List of the Scottish Commanders at the Battle of Halidon, 19th July 1383, pp. 11.
  5. Whether Edward III. put to Death the Son of Sir Alexander Seton, pp. 8.
  6. List of the Scottish Commanders killed or made prisoners at the Battle of Durham, pp. 8.
  7. Table of Kings, p. 1.
  8. Corrections and additions to Volume I., pp. 16.
  9. Corrections and additions to Volume II., pp. 8.
  - Chronological Abridgment of the Volume, pp. 39.<sup>1</sup>
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Account of the Martyrs of Smyrna and Lyons in the Second Century, 12mo; with Explanatory Notes. Edinburgh, 1778. Dedicated to Bishop Hurd, pp. 68. Notes and Illustrations, pp. 142.—This is a new and correct version of two most ancient Epistles; the one from the Church at Smyrna to the Church at Philadelphia; the other from the Christians at Vienne and Lyons, to those in Asia and Phrygia—their antiquity and authenticity are undoubted. Great part of both is extracted from Eusebius's Ecclesiastical History. The former was first completely edited by Archbishop Usher. The author of the Notes says of them, with his usual and singular modesty, “that they will afford little new or interesting to men of erudition, though they may prove of some benefit to the unlearn'd reader.” But the erudition he possessed in these branches is so rare, that this notice is unnecessary. They display much useful learning and ingenious criticism, and breathe the most ardent zeal, connected with an exemplary knowledge of Christianity.

N.B.—This is the First Volume of the Remains of Christian Antiquity.

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Remains of Christian Antiquity; with Explanatory Notes, Vol. II. Edinburgh 1778, 12mo. Dedicated to Dr. Newton, Bishop of Bristol. Preface, pp. 7. This Volume contains—The Trial of Justin Martyr and his Companions, pp. 8.—Epistle of Dionysius, Bishop of Alexandria, to Fabius, Bishop of Antioch, pp. 16.—the Trial and Execution of Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, pp. 8.—the Trial and Execution of Fructuosus, Bishop of Tarracona in Spain, and of his two Deacons, Augurius and Eulogius, pp. 8.—the Maiden of Antioch, pp. 2. These are all newly Translated by Lord Hailes from Eusebius, Ambrose, &c. The Notes and Illustrations of this Volume extend from pp. 47 to 165, and display a most intimate acquaintance with antiquity: great critical acumen, both in elucidating the sense and detecting interpolations; and, above all, a fervent and enlightened zeal in vindicating such sentiments and conduct as are conformable to the Word of God, against the malicious sarcasms of Mr. Gibbon. To this volume is added an Appendix of twenty-two pages, correcting and vindicating certain parts of Vol. I.

Remains of Christian Antiquity, Vol. III. Edin. 1780. Dedicated to Thos. Balguy, D.D. Preface, pp. 2. It contains the History of the Martyrs of Palestine in the Third Century, translated from Eusebius, pp. 94. Notes and Illustrations, pp. 135, in which Mr. Gibbon again comes, and more frequently, under review. The partiality and misrepresentations of this popular writer are here exposed in the calmest and most satisfactory manner.

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Octavius; a dialogue. By Marcus Minucius Felix. Edin. 1781, pp. 16. Preface.—The speakers are Cœcius, a heathen; Octavius, a Christian, whose arguments prevail with his friend to renounce Paganism and become a Christian proselyte. Notes and Illustrations, pp. 120. Of the Manner in which the Persecutors died; a treatise by Lactantius. Edin. 1782. 8vo. Inscribed to Dr. Porteous, Bishop of Chester (afterwards Bishop of London). Preface, pp. 37, in which it is proved that Lactantius is the author. Text, pp. 125. Notes and Illustrations, pp. 109.

Lactantii Divinarum Institutionum Liber Quintus, seu de Justitia. 1777. 8vo.

Disquisitions concerning the Antiquities of the Christian Church. Glasgow, 1783. Inscribed to Dr. Halifax, Bishop of Gloucester, pp. 194.—This small, original, and most excellent work consists of Six Chapters.

Chap. 1. A commentary on the Conduct and Character of Gallio, Acts xviii. 5, 12, 17.

Chap. 2. Of the Time at which the Christian Religion became publicly known at Rome.

Chap. 3. Cause of the Persecution of the Christians under Nero.—In this the hypothesis of Mr. Gibbon, Vol. I., 4to, pp. 641, is examined.

Chap. 4. Of the eminent Heathen Writers, who are said (by Gibbon) to have disregarded or contemned Christianity, viz. Seneca, Pliny senior, Tacitus, Pliny junior, Galen, Epictetus, Plutarch, Marcus Antonius.—To the admirers of Heathen Philosophers, and to those especially who state between them and the Christian doctrine any consanguinity, this Chapter is earnestly recommended.

Chap. 5. Illustrations of a Conjecture by Gibbon, respecting the silence of Dio Cassius concerning the Christians.—In this Chapter, with extreme impartiality, he amplifies and supports an idea of Mr. Gibbon on this head.

Chap. 6. Of the Circumstances respecting Christianity that are to be found in the Augustan History.

It seems very probable that the close attention which Lord Hailes appears to have given to such subjects, was in some measure the effect of the mistakes and partiality of Gibbon. In no one work from 1776—the date of Mr. Gibbon's first publication—has he omitted to trace this unfair and insinuating author; but in 1786, he came forth of set purpose, with the most able and formidable reply which he has received, entitled, “An Inquiry into the Secondary Causes which Mr. Gibbon has assigned for the rapid Growth of Christianity. By Sir David

<sup>1</sup> This Work, with some of the minor publications, has been reprinted in three vols. 8vo. Edin. 1819.

Dalrymple. Edinburgh, 1786; gratefully and affectionately inscribed to Richard (Hurd), Bishop of Worcester, 4to, pp. 213. In five Chapters.

Sketch of the Life of John Barclay, 4to, 1786.

Sketch of the Life of John Hamilton, a Secular Priest, 4to.

Sketch of the Life of Sir James Ramsay, a General Officer in the Armies of Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden, with a head.

Life of George Lesley (an eminent Capuchin Friar in the early part of the 17th century), 4to, pp. 24.

Sketch of the Life of Mark Alexander Boyd, 4to.

Specimen of a Life of James Marquis of Montrose.

These lives were written and published as a specimen of the manner in which a *Biographia Scotica* might be executed. With the exception of the last, they have been reprinted in the Appendix to the edition of his *Annals* printed in 1819.

Davidis Humei, Scotti, summi apud suos philosophi, de vita sua acta, liber singularis; nunc primum Latine redditus. [Edin.] 1787, 4to.

Adami Smithi, LL.D., ad Gulielmum Strahanum armigerum, de rebus novissimis Davidis Humei, Epistola, nunc primum Latine redditta. [Edin.] 1788, 4to.

The Opinions of Sarah, Duchess Dowager of Marlborough, published from her original MSS. 1788, 12mo, pp. 120 (with a few Foot Notes by Lord Hailes, in which he corrects the spleenetic partiality of her Grace)—a singularly curious work.

The Address of Q. Sept. Tertullian to Scapula Terillus, proconsul of Africa, translated by Sir David Dalrymple. Edin. 1790, 12mo. Inscribed to Dr. John Butler, Bishop of Hereford. Preface, pp. 4. Translation, pp. 18. Original, pp. 13. Notes and Illustrations, pp. 135.

#### No. CXLVIII.

### REV. DR. DAVID JOHNSTON,

MINISTER OF NORTH LEITH.

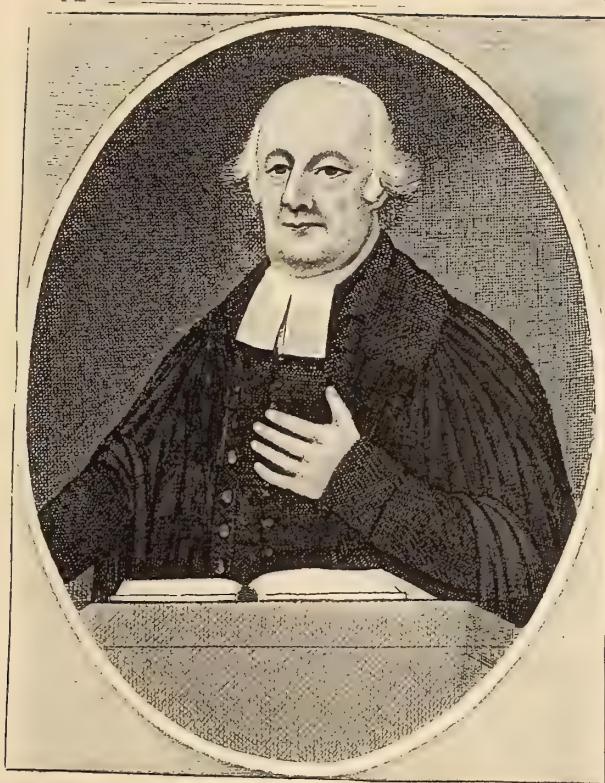
IT may be said of this excellent man, that he inherited the virtues of the clerical character by descent. His father was minister of Arngask, in the county of Fife, and his maternal grandfather, the Rev. Mr. David Williamson, of the parish of St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, was a celebrated clergyman in the days of the persecution.<sup>1</sup>

MR. DAVID JOHNSTON was born in 1733. His early years were sedulously devoted to the study of those acquirements necessary for the important office

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Williamson was the son of a respectable glover in St. Andrews. He was ordained to the West Kirk in 1661. The re-establishment of Episcopacy took place two years afterwards; but, in defiance of an order of Council, issued in 1664, he continued to preach in his church till the year following, when he was compelled to abandon his charge. He then retired to the west country, preaching to the people in the fields and at conventicles. In 1687, on the Act of Toleration being passed, Mr. Williamson returned to Edinburgh; and was so well received by his old parishioners, that they erected a meeting-house for him, where they attended on his ministrations. The prelatists of the West Kirk soon found themselves almost totally deserted by their congregation; but their hands being tied up by the Toleration Act, they secretly stirred up the civil magistrate against him by false accusations, in consequence of which he was imprisoned, but subsequently liberated; yet the same party continued to harass him in various ways, until, by the Revolution, he was happily restored to the parish church in 1689. It is to Mr. Williamson that the “Author of Waverley” alludes in the following couplet of an absurd old ballad, put into the mouth of a syren of the mob as old Deans and his daughter Jeanie are pressing through the crowd to the trial of Effie:—

“Mess David Williamson, chosen of twenty,  
Ran up the pupil stairs, and sang Killiecrankie.”

He was seven times married—a circumstance which afforded a fund of merriment to the Jacobites. See *Scottish Pasquils*, vol. i. Edin. 12mo.





which he was destined so long and so honourably to fill. After attending the usual academical courses, and having obtained authority to preach, his character and talents soon procured for him the parish church of Langton, in Berwickshire, to which he was ordained in 1759. He remained there, however, only about six years, having been then called to the more important charge of North Leith, the population of which, though at that time only seven hundred, had increased to as many thousands before his death.

There are seldom any striking incidents to record in the biography of a parish clergyman. "The even tenor of his way" is less liable to be disturbed by those ruder shocks which frequently assail men in other spheres of life. This observation is peculiarly applicable to the subject of the present sketch. If we except the frequent alarms experienced by the inhabitants of Leith during the early part of the last war, when the country was threatened with foreign invasion, and the interesting yet arduous duty which he faithfully discharged in consoling the fears and animating the courage of his people, no occurrence very peculiar falls to be narrated within the scope of his history; but it would require a volume of no ordinary dimensions to note down all the acts of genuine Christian philanthropy in which he was engaged almost every day of his existence. In the pulpit he inculcated, with earnestness and power, those principles and doctrines which all feel to be the very basis of the moral structure; while, in his parochial visitations, he sedulously laboured to carry the precepts of religion home to the firesides of his parishioners.<sup>1</sup> Many still alive remember with what diligence their venerated pastor continued, even in old age, to visit the humble dwellings of the poor, and to attend the bed of sickness and of death, carrying along with him that consolation which the mission of peace never fails to bestow. Neither was his solicitude confined to the spiritual welfare of his people. In their temporal affairs he took a lively interest, and felt for their misfortunes as if they were his own. "To the widow, he was as a husband—to the orphan, as a father—to the destitute and helpless, a steward of Heaven's bounty; their protector, patron, and support."

Dr. Johnston's philanthropy was of the most active description. He was no sentimentalist, to weep at the recitation of a well-told tale, and yet turn his eyes away from actual misery. In a maritime district such as North Leith, where a great portion of the inhabitants are engaged in the precarious and dangerous occupation of fishing, casualties are of frequent occurrence. The moment he heard of a case of distress, he could not remain satisfied without instantly doing something to assist the sufferers; and, while he was no niggard of his own means, he was indefatigable in his endeavours to procure aid from others. Whether his charity was exerted in behalf of individuals or of institutions, he was equally unremitting in his endeavours; and whenever a benevolent project was pointed out to him, he entered into the scheme with the most ardent

<sup>1</sup> On one of his catechetical rounds among the cottages of the fishermen of Newhaven, the curious version of *Adam's fall* was given, which, as the anecdote is illustrative of that peculiar class of people, will be found related in our notice of a "Newhaven Oyster Lass."

enthusiasm, and prosecuted it with untiring energy. Perhaps there was no one of whom it could more truly be said, that “he went about continually doing good.”<sup>1</sup>

With the establishment of that benevolent institution—the Blind Asylum of Edinburgh—the memory of Dr. Johnston is affectionately associated ; and so deeply and actively did he interest himself in originating and promoting funds for the undertaking, that he might with justice be designated its founder. So much were his feelings bound up in the success of the institution, that he regularly devoted a portion of his time to give it his personal superintendence, and watched over its progress with all the fondness of a parent.<sup>2</sup> This surveillance he continued every day in the week, except Saturday and Sabbath, walking to and from Edinburgh ; and, at the extreme age of ninety, gave proof of the wonderful degree of muscular activity for which he had always been remarkable, by performing the journey as usual. He despised the modern effeminacy of the stage-coach ; and, in going up Leith Walk, generally got ahead of it.

Both in person and in features Dr. Johnston was exceedingly handsome ; and in dress and manners he was a thorough gentleman of the last century. He

<sup>1</sup> The only dilemma in which the good old Doctor is known to have been placed with a portion of his parishioners, occurred when the old church of North Leith—abandoned to secular purposes—was, in 1817, supplanted by the present building, with its handsome spire, surmounted by a cross. Some of the out-and-out Presbyterians saw in this emblem an alarming approach to Popish darkness ; and, not unfrequently, when in the course of his visitations, he found himself in the *place of the catechised*. On this subject the Doctor held only one opinion ; but in reference to the zealous declamation of two old women whom he one day encountered, and who had fairly borne him down by strength of lungs, if not by strength of argument, he at last exclaimed—“Well, well, what would you have me to do in the matter?” “*Do!*” replied one of them ; “what wad ye do—but just put up the auld cock again!”

<sup>2</sup> The Abbé Haury published a very curious work on the Education of the Blind, written in French, and *printed and bound* by the blind pupils at the *Quinze-vingts* in Paris—a benevolent institution which owed its establishment to the late unfortunate Louis XVI. The types of this work, as published at Paris *ninety years ago*, were made to impress the paper so strongly as to produce palpable letters, in such high relief, that blind people, properly instructed, might read them by means of their fingers. The late eminent Dr. Blacklock, who was blind from his infancy, proposed to have translated and published this curious work ; but he died before it was completed. We have seen one of the chapters of the translation. It gave an accurate account of the part which described the typographical labours of the blind pupils, and the ingenious contrivance for enabling themselves and others in the same unhappy predicament to enjoy the benefit and delight of solitary reading. About forty works in different languages have been published in Paris ; and all the inmates of the Institution there have been taught to read, many of them with great fluency. Within the last ten years, the art of printing for the blind has been completely revolutionised by Mr. Gall of Edinburgh. By modifying the alphabet so as to make each letter differ in shape as decidedly as possible from every other, and more especially by the invention of *fretted types*, he has reduced the books for the blind to one-tenth of their former prices. The remarkable simplicity of Mr. Gall’s alphabet may be imagined from the circumstance, that the blind are able to read the books through four, six, and sometimes eight plies of a handkerchief laid upon them. The size of the types may be so much reduced as to have the whole New Testament printed for 8s. 6d. per copy ; and it is expected that an edition may yet be obtained as low as 5s.

A great number of the blind are now able to read in England, Ireland, and Scotland ; and, as the object has been warmly taken up by the British and Foreign Bible Society, and the Religious Tract Society of London, who are publishing books for their use ; and by the Sunday School Union of England, who are teaching them to read in the Schools ; it is hoped that all the blind will very soon enjoy the benefit of Mr. Gall’s valuable labours.





Drawn & etched by J. May Parker, June 1811.

died at Leith on the 5th of July 1824, in the ninety-first year of his age, and sixty-sixth of his ministry, leaving behind him one daughter, the only survivor of a large family, who was married to William Penney, Esq., of Glasgow. Some years prior to his death he had been assisted in his parochial duties by the Rev. Dr. Ireland.<sup>1</sup>

The remains of this much respected and patriarchal clergyman were followed to the grave by upwards of five hundred persons, among whom were many of the most distinguished citizens of Edinburgh and Leith. The inmates of the Blind Asylum, who had been so much an object of his care, lined the access to the churchyard; and, by their presence, added much to the melancholy interest of the scene. The Rev. Dr. Dickson of St. Cuthbert's preached the funeral sermon on the Sabbath following.

## No. CXLIX.

## SIR JAMES STIRLING, BART.,

LORD PROVOST OF EDINBURGH, IN HIS ROBES.

THIS gentleman, whose father was a fishmonger at the head of Marlin's Wynd,<sup>2</sup> had the merit of being the architect of his own fortune. In early life he went to the West Indies, as clerk to an extensive and opulent planter, Mr. Stirling of Keir, where he conducted himself with such propriety, that, in a short time, through the influence of his employer, he was appointed Secretary to the Governor of the Island of Jamaica, Sir Charles Dalling.

Having in this situation accumulated a considerable sum of money, he at length returned to Edinburgh, and was assumed a partner in the banking concern of "Mansfield, Ramsay, & Co." (lately Ramsay, Bonar, & Co.), whose place of business was then in Cantore's Close, Luckenbooths.<sup>3</sup> In

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Ireland, on being assured of succeeding to the parish on the death of Dr. Johnston, agreed to perform the duties of assistant, which he did for more than twenty-four years; and afterwards lived to enjoy the fruit of all this labour only four years and a half. The incumbency was afterwards held by the Rev. Mr. Buchanan.

<sup>2</sup> Marlin's Wynd, which stood east of the Tron Church, was demolished to make way for the South Bridge. Mr. Stirling had for his sign a large, clumsy, wooden *Black Bull*, which is preserved as a relic in the Museum of Scottish Antiquaries.

<sup>3</sup> Not long after he had entered into this concern, Mr. Stirling, naturally of an irritable temperament, became uneasy at the extent and responsibility of a banking establishment, and proposed selling his estate of Saughie, which he had recently purchased. Old Mr. William Ramsay, having been apprised of his intention, addressed him one day after dinner in his usual familiar manner—"I hear, Jamie, that ye're gaun to sell the Saughie property. If that be the case, rather than let you advertise it in the newspapers, and thereby bring suspicion on the stability of the concern, I'll tak it frae you at what it cost ye." Stirling instantly agreed to the proposition; and scarcely had the property been transferred to Mr. Ramsay when that gentleman had the offer of nearly double the purchase-money. The value is now more than quadrupled.

this copartnery he was very prosperous ; and his good fortune was increased by obtaining the hand of Miss Mansfield, the daughter of the principal partner.

Mr. Stirling first became connected with the Town Council in 1771, when he was elected one of the Merchant Councillors. During the years 1773–4, he held the office of Treasurer ; and from 1776 till 1790 was frequently in the magistracy. At the annual election of the latter year, he was chosen Lord Provost, and held that office during the city riots of 1792.

At this period politics ran high. The Reform of the Royal Burghs of Scotland had been keenly agitated throughout the country for some time previous ; and a motion on the subject, by Mr. Sheridan, in the House of Commons, on the 18th of April, which was negatived by a majority of twenty-six, had incensed the public to a great degree. Henry Dundas, Lord Melville, than Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, by his opposition to the motion, rendered himself so obnoxious to the people, that in various parts of Scotland he was burnt in effigy by the mob. The Pitt administration had become unpopular by a proclamation issued at the same time against certain publications—a measure which the people viewed as an attack upon the liberty of the press. In this state of excitement the authorities of Edinburgh contemplated the approaching King's birthday, on the 4th of June, with much uneasiness ; but the measures of precaution adopted by them were imprudent, and tended rather to irritate than conciliate the populace. The disturbances which ensued are thus recorded in the journals of the day :—

"The Magistrates of Edinburgh having got information by anonymous letters and otherwise, that on the King's birth-day, many persons who had taken offence at the parliamentary conduct of Mr. Dundas, in the opposition of the Scottish Borough Reform, were determined to burn his effigy, in imitation of the burghs of Dundee, Aberdeen, etc., in consequence of this information, they took the opinion of the high officers of the Crown, with regard to the conduct which it was proper to pursue, when they resolved to prevent, if possible, the designs of the populace, by bringing in some troops of dragoons to overawe and intimidate them. Accordingly, in the afternoon of the King's birth-day (Monday, 4th June 1792), the dragoons made their appearance in Edinburgh, riding furiously through the streets, with their swords drawn.<sup>1</sup> This behaviour, instead of having the desired effect, provoked the indignation of the people, who saluted them with hootings and hisses as they passed along. In the afternoon, when the Magistrates were assembled in the Parliament House to drink the usual healths and loyal toasts, the populace also assembled, and were indulging themselves, according to a custom which has prevailed in Edinburgh for many years, in the throwing of dead cats, etc., at one another, and at the city-guard, who are always drawn up to fire volleys as the healths are drunk by the Magistrates. At this time some dragoon officers, incautiously appearing on the streets, were insulted by the rabble. This induced them to bring out their men, who were accordingly directed to clear the streets. Some stones were thrown at them ; but at last the mob retired without doing any material mischief.

"On the evening of the next day, Tuesday, a number of persons assembled before Mr. Dundas's house in George Square, with a figure of straw, which they hung upon a pole, and were proceeding to burn, when two of Mr. Dundas's friends came out from the house, and very imprudently attempted to disperse the mob by force. Their conduct was immediately resented. The gentlemen were soon

<sup>1</sup> So furiously did they gallop up the High Street, that on passing the Luckenbooths, where the street was extremely narrow, one of the horsemen came violently in contact with the corner of the buildings, and was thrown with great force to the ground, where he lay apparently insensible for a considerable time before any one came to his assistance—the people being greatly incensed by the appearance of the military.

obliged to retire again into the house ;<sup>1</sup> and the mob began to break the windows. Not content with this, they proceeded to the house of the Lord Advocate (Dundas of Arniston), whose windows they broke. It then became necessary to bring a party of the military from the Castle to prevent farther mischief. The Sheriff attended and read the riot act ; but the mob not dispersing, after repeated intimation of the consequences, the military at last fired, when several persons were wounded, and some mortally. This put a period to the outrages for that night.

"On Wednesday, in the evening, the mob assembled in the New Town, with an intention of destroying the house of the Chief Magistrate.<sup>2</sup> A fire was lighted on the Castle, and two guns were fired, as a signal to the marines of the Hind frigate, stationed at Leith, and the dragoons quartered about a mile east of the town. On their appearance the mob finally separated."<sup>3</sup>

During the prevalence of these riots, Provost Stirling prudently sought shelter in the Castle. In so doing he acted wisely, as, if the mob had laid hands on him, there is no saying what might have followed. It was at this time that "Lang Sandy Wood," whom the crowd mistook for the Provost, narrowly escaped being thrown over the North Bridge.

The Magistrates, naturally alarmed at what had occurred, thought it best to lay the whole facts of the case before their fellow-citizens. With this view, a public meeting of the inhabitants was called, in the New Church aisle, on the Thursday forenoon following—the Lord Provost in the chair. Of this meeting the following account is given in the journals :—

"The Lord Advocate, Mr. Sheriff Pringle, the Lord-President, Lord Adam Gordon, Commander-in-Chief, Mr. Solicitor Blair, and several others, declared their sentiments. The meeting unanimously expressed their full approbation of the measures pursued by the Magistrates and the Sheriff, for suppressing the riots ; and published resolutions to that effect.

"A proclamation was issued the same evening, recommending to the people not to assemble in crowds, or remain longer on the streets than their lawful business required, as the most decisive measures had been resolved upon for quieting the least appearance of any farther disorder ; and offering a reward of one hundred guineas for discovery of the ringleaders. Fifty guineas were also offered by the Merchant Company, who, and all the incorporations, voted thanks to the Magistrates for the measures taken to suppress the riots. It is said that certain attempts to procure a vote of thanks to the Magistrates for introducing the military into the town, *previous to any riotous act*, proved abortive."

Perhaps the zeal displayed by Provost Stirling, in support of the existing administration on this occasion, may have recommended him as a suitable object for ministerial favour ; however this may be, on the 17th of July following, "the King was pleased to grant the dignity of a Baronet of the kingdom of Great Britain to the Right Hon. James Stirling, Lord Provost of the city of Edinburgh, and the heirs-male of his body lawfully begotten."

<sup>1</sup> The gentlemen who made this hazardous attempt, we have been informed, were the late Lord Viscount Duncan, then Rear-Admiral of the White, and the late Sir Patrick Murray of Ochtertyre, then attending the law classes at the University. Duncan, although in his sixty-first year, was a strong athletic man. Armed with a crutch belonging to old Lady Dundas, which he seized on rushing out of the house, he laid about him among the crowd with great vigour ; and even after the head of the crutch had been demolished, he continued to use the staff, until compelled to retreat by the overwhelming inequality of numbers.

<sup>2</sup> He then resided at the south-west corner of St. Andrew Square.

<sup>3</sup> No damage was sustained upon the premises of the Lord Provost. The destruction was limited to two sentry-boxes placed near the door, it being then deemed an indispensable accessory to the dignity of Provost, that two of the city-guard should keep station before his house.

The irritation of the populace against Sir James gradually subsided ; and latterly vented itself entirely in pasquinadoes and lampoons, in which the humble origin of the Baronet was not spared. Kay contributed his quota to the general fund of amusement by producing the following caricature, which he entitled a "*Patent for Knighthood !*"

No. CL.

HENRY DUNDAS,

AND

SIR JAMES STIRLING, BART.

THE satirical allusion of this Print will be best understood by reference to the debate in the House of Commons in the month of May prior to the disturbances. The subject of discussion was the King's proclamation (already alluded to), which the Whigs opposed as tyrannical and unnecessary. After several speakers had delivered their sentiments, *Mr. Courtenay* said—"The proclamation was a severe censure on ministers for not having discharged their duty—in not having prosecuted the libels, which they said had existence for several months. He declared his disbelief of the proclamation having been intended for insidious purposes by one of his Majesty's cabinet ministers, the Home Secretary (*Mr. Dundas*), whose good nature and civility had always induced him to accommodate himself to every minister; which good nature and civility called to his mind the *old man in Edinburgh*, who used to go about with a pail and great-coat, calling out—'Wha wants me?' The honourable Secretary, upon every change of administration, had imitated the old man, by calling out—'Wha wants me?' This readiness to oblige, therefore, did away with all suspicion of malice."<sup>1</sup>

To this sally of humour, Dundas of course made no reply. He was impene-

<sup>1</sup> A ballad, founded on this speech, entitled *Wha wants me?* was sung for months in the streets of Edinburgh. Lord Melville was not unfrequently serenaded with it while there; but he apparently felt so little annoyance, appeared so much amused, and laughed so heartily, that the singing was soon stopped. The song was printed and sold at the small charge of "one penny." It was sung to the tune of *My Daddy is a Canker'd Carle*, and commenced—

" John Bull, he is a canker'd carle ; he'll nae twin wi' his gear ;  
 And Sawney now is ten times waur, gin a' be true I hear ;  
 But let them say, or let them do, it's a' ane to me ;  
 I'll never lay aside my cloak—my *wha wants me?*  
 O, wha wants me, sirs ? Wha wants me ?  
 I'll take my stand near Downing Street, with aye—Wha wants me ?"





trable to all such assaults. It did not fail, however, to excite the notice of his opponents north of the Tweed; and we have seen by the “Patent of Knighthood” how the artist improved upon the suggestion.

Notwithstanding his temporary unpopularity, Sir James was subsequently at the head of the Magistracy in 1794–5, and again in 1798–9. During the latter warlike period his conduct was truly meritorious. Scottish commerce had suffered considerably from the attacks of French and Dutch privateers, even on our very coasts, which had been left in a shamefully unguarded condition. By the representations of Sir James, and his judicious applications to Government, proper convoys were obtained for the merchantmen, and due protection afforded to our bays. He zealously forwarded the plan of arming the seamen of Leith and the fishermen of Newhaven, by which a strong body of men were organised in defence of the harbour and shipping.

So highly were the services of Sir James appreciated, that at the annual Convention of the Royal Burghs of Scotland (of which he was preses), held at Edinburgh in 1799, the thanks of the Convention were presented to him in a gold box, “for his constant attention to the trade of the country, and in testimony of the Convention’s sense of his good services in procuring the appointment of convoys, and in communicating with the outports on the subject.”

Sir James Stirling died on the 17th February 1805. In private life he was very much respected: of mild, gentlemanly manners, but firm in what he judged to be right. His habits were economical, but not parsimonious; and the party entertainments given at his house were always in a style of magnificence. In person, he was tall and extremely attenuated.<sup>1</sup>

At one period Sir James resided in St. Andrew Square, the first house north from Rose Street; and latterly at the west end of Queen Street, not far from the Hopetoun Rooms. He acquired the estate of Larbert, in Stirlingshire, which, with his title of Baronet, descended to his son, Sir Gilbert Stirling, then a Lieutenant in the Coldstream Guards. He left another son, George, who on the 25th December 1820 married Anne Henrietta, daughter of William Gray of Oxgang, Esq. He had also two daughters, Janet and Joan, the former of whom was married to Admiral Sir Thomas Livingstone of West-quarter, near Falkirk.

<sup>1</sup> It is related of Sir James, that on being pointed out to a country woman while walking, attired in his velvet robes, in a procession, she exclaimed—“Is that the Lord Provost? I thocht it was the corpse rinnin’ awa’ wi’ the mort-cloth.”

No. CLI.

LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR LOUGHBOROUGH,  
AFTERWARDS EARL OF ROSSLYN.

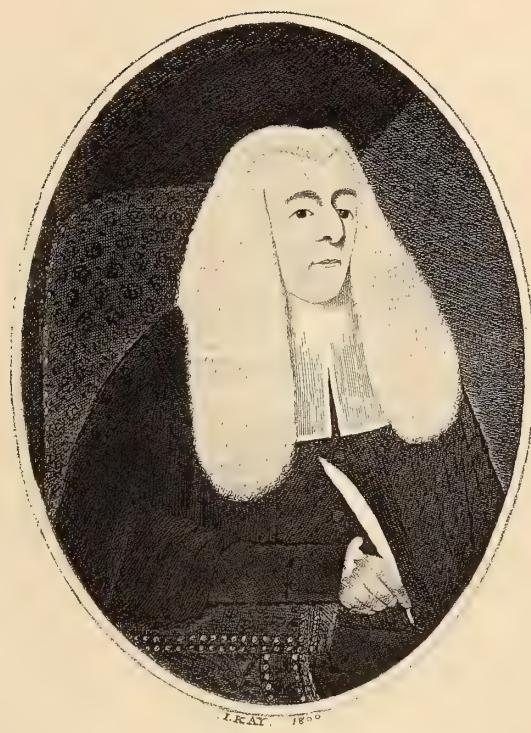
THIS etching was taken by Kay during the artist's short visit to London in 1800. His lordship was the first Scotsman who ever sat on the bench as Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, or held the appointment of Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain.

ALEXANDER WEDDERBURN was born at Chesterhall in East Lothian in 1733. His father, Peter Wedderburn, Esq. of Chesterhall, was a Senator of the College of Justice; and his great-grandfather, Sir Peter Wedderburn of Gosford, had held a similar appointment in the reign of Charles II. He received the first rudiments of education at the village school of Dalkeith, where his conduct was such as to merit the unqualified approbation of his teacher.

Young Wedderburn subsequently studied at the University of Edinburgh; and so rapid was his progress in the various academical acquirements, that he was admitted to the bar at the precocious age of nineteen. Even at this early period he was fast rising into practice, when an incident occurred which altogether changed his views and sphere of action. "He had gained the cause of a client," says his biographer, "in opposition to the celebrated Lockhart (Lord Covington), when the defeated veteran, unable to conceal his chagrin, took occasion, from something in the manner of Mr. Wedderburn, to call him a *presumptuous boy*. The sarcastic severity of the young barrister's reply drew upon him so illiberal a rebuke from one of the judges that he immediately unrobed, and, bowing to the Court, declared that he would never more plead where he was subjected to insult."

Following up this resolution, Wedderburn instantly proceeded to London, where that respect is invariably shown to the members of the bar to which they are justly entitled. He enrolled himself a member of the Inner Temple, and was admitted to the bar in 1757. The step thus taken was certainly a hazardous one for an individual without friends or patronage, and comparatively without fortune. His talents, however, soon made way for him; and he very speedily attained to eminence. Among the first cases of any note in which he was employed was that of Lord Clive<sup>1</sup> (many years Governor-General of India), who, after nearly sixteen years' residence at home, was arraigned before

<sup>1</sup> Lord Clive was one of those extraordinary men who appear once in a century. To him, and to the ill-used Warren Hastings, this country owes almost entirely the preservation and consolidation of its Eastern power.



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Parliament upon charges of undue appropriation. He was eminently successful in the vindication of Lord Clive, and obtained a verdict of acquittal. His appearance in the House of Lords, as one of the counsel in the great Douglas cause, tended greatly to increase his professional reputation, and secured for him the friendship of Lords Bute and Mansfield. Shortly after the decision of this appeal, Mr. Wedderburn was brought into Parliament for the Inverary district of burghs, which he represented for several years; and, in 1774, having been chosen for two English boroughs, he became member for Oakhampton. In the House of Commons he proved himself an able debater,<sup>1</sup> and was one of the chief defenders of the Grafton administration, in opposition to Burke, who had thrown all the force of his eloquence into the Rockingham interest.

The ready talent and acute and logical reasoning of Wedderburn were fully appreciated by the party with which he was associated. His rise was accordingly rapid. In 1771 he was promoted to the office of Solicitor-General; and in 1773 succeeded Thurlow as Attorney-General. While holding this appointment in 1774, he appeared, in opposition to the famous Dr. Franklin, before the Privy Council in favour of the Governors of Massachusetts Bay, whom the Americans, and Franklin, as their representative, were petitioning to depose. The speech of Wedderburn before the Council has been censured for its "sweeping bitterness" towards the philosopher; but it is at the same time an excellent specimen of his eloquence, and quite in keeping with his known sentiments relative to the unhappy American disputes.

Much praise is conceded to the Attorney-General for the promptness and decision of character which he manifested during the memorable riots in London of 1780. All the municipal force of the city had been overpowered, and the capital was in the hands of a lawless mob. In this emergency the King summoned a meeting of the Privy Council; and the question was—whether military force could be constitutionally employed without the delay and forms necessary in common cases of riot? Wedderburn at once gave his opinion in the affirmative. "Is that your declaration as Attorney-General?" inquired the King. "Yes, Sire, decidedly so." "Then let it so be," said his Majesty. Wedderburn instantly drew up the order of Council accordingly, and in a few hours the riots were quelled, and the capital, already partially in flames, saved from inevitable destruction.

Immediately after this event Mr. Wedderburn was appointed Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, in the room of Lord Walsingham, and created a Peer by the title of Baron Loughborough of Loughborough, in the county of Leicester. In the capacity of Chief Justice his lordship presided at the trial of the rioters, of whom twenty-six were condemned and executed. His charge to the jurors on this occasion has been eulogised by some as replete with "reasoned

<sup>1</sup> It is singular that lawyers usually are very ineffective in the House of Commons. Of this Lord Erskine—one of the best pleaders of his time—was a signal instance. Within our own period, the only barristers who have been successful as parliamentary orators, are Sir William Follett, Sergeant Jackson, and Mr. Frederick Shaw.

eloquence ;" while others beheld in it an extent and latitude of principle inconsistent with the letter of the law. "The precipitate and indiscriminate severity of the sentences passed in his judicial capacity, by this magistrate, upon the rioters," says one writer, "far exceeded anything known in this country since the days of Judge Jefferies ; such, indeed, as left the memory of these transactions impressed upon the public mind in indelible characters of blood." This to a certain extent may be true ; but while we consider the amount of punishment, the magnitude of the crime ought not to be overlooked.

If the conduct of the Chief Justice is liable to any degree of censure in this instance, it must be admitted, even by the most inveterate of his political adversaries, that, on the bench, his decisions were characterised by an uprightness and independence sufficiently illustrative of his integrity, and the deep veneration in which he held the liberty of the subject. We may instance a case of false imprisonment—*Burgess v. Addington* (the former, an obscure publican ; the latter, one of the Justices of Bow Street.) In palliation of the conduct of Justice Addington, it was contended that it was the usual practice to commit for further examination, owing to the extent of business which the Justice had to transact. Lord Loughborough expressed himself with great energy and warmth :—

"The law," said his lordship, "would not endure such practices. It was an abominable practice, when men were taken up only on *suspicion*, to commit them to gaol and load them with irons, and this before any evidence was given against them. Here the commitment stated no offence, but a suspicion of an offence ; and a man was thrown into gaol, for five days, for the purpose of further examination, because the magistrate had *not time* to do justice. It was a mode of proceeding pregnant with all the evils of an *ex post facto* law ; the constitution abhorred it ; and from him it should ever meet with reprobation. He knew the abominable purposes to which such proceedings might be perverted. No man was safe if justices were permitted to keep back evidence on the part of the accused. It was not in his power to punish the Justice, that authority lay with another court ; but he would not allow such a defence to be set up before him as a legal one. The commitment stated a lie ; for, though there had been an *accusation* upon suspicion, there had been no information taken upon oath. Men who had not time to do justice should not dare to act as magistrates. This man should not be permitted to act. The liberty of the subject was in question. It was a practice from which more evil must result than could be cured even by the suppression of offences. The purpose of committing for further examination, was clearly to increase the business of the office at the expense of men's characters, and every valuable privilege and consideration."<sup>1</sup>

In 1783 Lord Loughborough formed one of the short-lived Coalition Ministry, by being appointed First Commissioner of the Great Seal. The fate of this administration is well known ; and, from the period of its disruption, which speedily followed that of its formation, his lordship remained out of office till 1793. In the course of the ten years which intervened, the important question of the Regency had been agitated with all the zeal of contending factions. Lord Loughborough at once espoused the cause of the Prince of Wales ; and from his knowledge of law and the constitution, gave a weight and authority to that side of the question which all the eloquence of Pitt, and sound sterling

<sup>1</sup> The jury gave the plaintiff *three hundred pounds damages*.

sense of Dundas, would have been unable much longer to have withstood, when the recovery of the King happily removed them from their difficulties.

The Chief Justice stood opposed to the administration of Pitt until the violent nature of the Revolution in France induced him and other individuals of his party to join the ministerial ranks. He was almost immediately invested with the high office of Lord Chancellor; and to the influence which he thus acquired in the councils of his Majesty are to be attributed many of those vigorous and decisive measures which were subsequently adopted by the Government.

Lord Loughborough held the Chancellorship till 1801, when he was created Earl of Rosslyn, with a remainder to his two nephews; and, nearly worn out with the fatigues of a long and active career, he retired altogether from public life, carrying with him the highest esteem of his sovereign, by whom he continued to be honoured with every mark of respect. "During the brief interval allowed to him between the theatre of public business and the grave, he paid a visit to Edinburgh, from which he had been habitually absent for nearly fifty years. With a feeling quite natural, perhaps, but yet hardly to be expected in one who had passed through so many of the more elevated of the artificial scenes of life, he caused himself to be carried in a chair to an obscure part of the Old Town, where he had resided during the most of his early years. He expressed a particular anxiety to know if a set of holes in the paved court before his father's house, which he had used for some youthful sport, continued in existence; and, on finding them still there, it was said that the aged statesman was moved almost to tears."<sup>1</sup>

His lordship died on the 2d January 1805. His demise is thus announced in the journals of the period:—

"At his seat at Baylis, near Salthill, in Berkshire, aged seventy-two, the Right Hon. Alexander Wedderburn, Earl of Rosslyn, Baron of Loughborough, in Leicestershire, and Baron Loughborough, in Surrey. His lordship had been long subject to the gout; but for some weeks past he was so much recovered as to visit round the neighbourhood; and on Tuesday night, January 1, accompanied the Countess to her Majesty's fête at Frogmore.

"Next morning his lordship rode on horseback to visit several of the neighbouring gentlemen; and, after his return to Baylis, went in his carriage to Bulstrode to visit the Duke of Portland, and returned home apparently in perfect health. At six o'clock, as his lordship sat at table, he was suddenly seized with a fit of the apoplectic kind, and fell speechless in his chair. At twelve o'clock he expired.

"His lordship married, 31st December 1767, Betty Anne, only daughter and sole heiress of John Dawson, Esq. of Morley, in Yorkshire, who died 15th February 1781. He had no issue. His second lady, whom he married 12th September 1782, was the youngest daughter of William Viscount Courtenay, by whom he had a son, born 2d October 1793, and since dead. By a second patent, October 31, 1795, he was created Baron Loughborough, in the county of Surrey, with remainders severally and successively to Sir James St. Clair Erskine, Bart., and to John Erskine, his brother; and, by a patent, April 21, 1801, Earl of Rosslyn, in the county of Mid-Lothian, to him and his heirs-male, with remainder to the heirs-male of Dame Janet Erskine, deceased, his sister. He was succeeded in the title by his nephew, Sir James St. Clair Erskine, Bart. The remains of the Earl were interred in St. Paul's Cathedral."

In private life Lord Loughborough was esteemed a most agreeable com-

<sup>1</sup> *Traditions of Edinburgh*.—The house, which consists of four stories, and is dated 1679, was situated in Elphinstone's Court, South Gray's Close, opposite the ancient Mint.

panion. The early friendships which he formed during his connection with the Select Society of Edinburgh, among whom were Robertson, Blair, Smith, and Hume, he continued to cherish with fondness throughout the bustle of his after life.<sup>1</sup>

The public character of his lordship has been variously represented, according to the political sentiments and prejudices of his contemporaries. Few statesmen during the “chopping and changing” of last century escaped the satirical lash of the Opposition ; and with such men as the “wary Wedderburn,” in the absence of other topics, national reflections were found a never-failing resource for the wits of the day ; hence he is described by Churchill as

“ A pert, prim prater, of the northern race ;  
Guilt in his heart, and famine in his face.”

*Wraxall*, who cannot be charged with too much partiality for the “northern race,” in the *Memoirs of his own Times*, thus sums up the character of the statesman :—“Loughborough unquestionably was one of the most able lawyers, accomplished parliamentary orators, and dexterous courtiers, who flourished under the reign of George the Third ; yet, with the qualities here enumerated, he never approved himself a wise, judicious, or enlightened statesman. His counsels, throughout the whole period of the King’s malady, were, if not unconstitutional, at least repugnant to the general sense of Parliament, and of the country—violent, imprudent, and injurious to the cause that he espoused. In 1793, when he held the Great Seal, and sat in cabinet, it was universally believed that the siege of Dunkirk—one of the most fatal measures ever embraced by the allies—originated with Lord Loughborough. Nevertheless, his legal knowledge, experience, and versatile talents, seemed eminently to qualify him for guiding the heir-apparent at a juncture when, if the King should not speedily recover, constitutional questions of the most novel, difficult, and important nature must necessarily present themselves.”

Here we find all that can be plausibly urged *against* the public character of Lord Loughborough, while a great deal is admitted in his favour. The imprudence attributed to his counsels is hypothetical, and might be urged with as much propriety against any other public man of equal genius and decision of character.

<sup>1</sup> The only literary productions of his lordship were—*Critiques on Barclay’s Greek Grammar*, the *Decisions of the Supreme Court*, and the *Abridgment of the Public Statutes*, which appeared in the *Edinburgh Review*, 1755. In 1793, he published a *Treatise on the Management of Prisons* ; and, subsequently, a *Treatise on the English Poor Laws*, addressed to a clergyman. [Only two numbers of the *Edinburgh Review* were published. The editors were Blair, Robertson, etc.]





## No. CLII.

## JOHN CAMPBELL, ESQ., OF BLYTHSWOOD.

LIEUT.-COLONEL OF THE NINTH REGIMENT OF FOOT.

COLONEL CAMPBELL, the son of James Campbell of Blythswood, was born in 1756. He entered the army in 1777, and was promoted to the Lieutenant-Colonelcy of the 9th Regiment of Foot on the 16th August 1783, having been previously on half-pay as Major of the 96th. He accompanied his regiment to the West Indies at the commencement of the revolutionary war, and served in the expedition against the French Islands in 1794, under General Sir Charles (afterwards Earl) Grey; and, having obtained the rank of Colonel, was appointed to the command of the brigade of grenadiers on that service. He fell in action, in the thirty-eighth year of his age, on the 16th February 1794, within a short distance of the town of St. Pierre, in the Island of Martinique. The corps he commanded formed part of the division under Major-General Dundas (of Carron Hall), who issued the following order on Colonel Campbell's death:—"That part of the army under the command of General Dundas will wear mourning for a week for that brave officer, Colonel Campbell, whose memory must be dear to every good man—the officers to wear crape, and men black ribbon round the left arm." General Sir Charles Grey says in his despatches, when reporting the death of Colonel Campbell, "in him his Majesty's service loses an excellent officer and a valuable man, justly lamented by the whole army and navy."

While stationed at Edinburgh Castle with his regiment in 1784, Colonel Campbell assisted in quelling the riots which occurred at Canonmills in that year. These disturbances, originating in the dearth and scarcity of provision which then prevailed throughout the country, were fomented by a belief, on the part of the populace, that the quantity of grain used in the distilleries was prejudicial to the supply of the markets. Some reports having been circulated peculiarly unfavourable to the Messrs. Haig, a party of riotous persons assembled on the evening of the 4th of June, and proceeded to Canonmills with a view of destroying the distillery. They were repulsed, however, and had one of their number shot<sup>1</sup> by the servants of the establishment, who were armed in defence of their masters' property. The mob was afterwards dispersed by the well-timed exertions of the Sheriff of the county,<sup>2</sup> and his Substitute. On the 7th, another crowd, much more numerous than the first, assembled by tuck of drum,

<sup>1</sup> The person killed was a silly, insane creature, who had been urged by the multitude to advance to the gate of the distillery, and to threaten its entire destruction.

<sup>2</sup> Baron Cockburn, father to Henry, Lord Cockburn.

attempted to destroy the distillery ; but a strong guard of military having been placed at the works, and another numerous body of the 9th Regiment, under Colonel Campbell, being posted in readiness, the rioters were kept at bay, and contented themselves with burning a hay-stack and some barrels, which they found not far from the premises.

So much was the spirit of mischief abroad at that period, that the same night a vast crowd assembled at Ford, about ten miles from Edinburgh, and attacked an extensive distillery belonging to Mr. Reid, which they burned to the ground. On the 8th of September following, two of the rioters at Canonmills, in pursuance of their sentence, were whipped through the streets of Edinburgh, and afterwards transported for fourteen years.

In person, Colonel Campbell was considered extremely handsome, being of a more light and agile form than is indicated in the Print. He was remarkable for carelessness in matters of dress, and an indifference to the advantages of a fine exterior.

The Colonel was not married. His only brother and successor, Archibald, rose to the rank of Major in the second battalion of the Royals ; and in 1794 was a prisoner at Toulon, having gone in there after it had been evacuated. He resided at Blythswood House, in the county of Renfrew. He was for several years Member of Parliament for the city of Glasgow.

A great part of what is called the New Town, or West End of Glasgow, is built on the Blythswood property.

#### No. CLIII.

### THE HON. BASIL COCHRANE,

AND

JAMES EDGAR, ESQ.,

COMMISSIONERS OF THE CUSTOMS.

COMMISSIONER COCHRANE, the tall, straight personage to the left, was the seventh son of William Cochrane of Ochiltree, a branch of the Dundonald family.<sup>1</sup> He entered the army at an early period, and rose to the

<sup>1</sup> His elder brother, Thomas, became eighth earl of Dundonald. In the *Traditions of Edinburgh*, under the section "Hyndford's Close," the following notices occur :—"In the first flat of the house on the east side of the Close, which is remarkable for having a row of ten windows to the street over the piazzas opposite to the Fountain Well, lived the Hon. Thomas Cochrane of Ochiltree, better known in his time by the name of Commissioner Cochrane, being one of the Commissioners of Excise for Scotland. This gentleman, who in 1758 became eighth Earl of Dundonald, was descended of





rank of Captain in the 44th, or Lee's Regiment of Foot. With this corps he was present at the affair of Prestonpans in 1745 ; and was captured by the forces of the Chevalier. Along with the other prisoners of war, he was carried to Edinburgh, where the officers were liberated on parole not to depart from the city nor correspond with the enemies of the Prince. After the suppression of the Rebellion, Mr. Cochrane for some time held the office of Deputy-Governor of the Isle of Man, under the Duke of Atholl. On the resignation of his brother in 1761, he was appointed one of the Commissioners of Excise ; and, three years subsequently, was advanced to the Board of Customs.

Mr. Cochrane resided at Dalry, a small property to the west of Edinburgh, where he died unmarried, on the 2d October 1788. The etching of him in the Print is very characteristic. He always walked with his gold-headed staff in his hand—his head inclining a little downwards ; and he wore black silk-velvet straps, instead of garters, which added very much to his military appearance. He was greatly respected by the other members of the Board, as well as by all who knew him.

The centre figure, COMMISSIONER EDGAR, from whom a beggar is soliciting alms, was another old bachelor, but of habits very different from the former. His rumoured parsimony induced Kay to give the stern expression of countenance with which he is portrayed in the etching. This charge was probably greatly exaggerated, as the erection of a spire to the church of Lasswade, entirely from his own funds, was certainly no indication of miserly feeling ; yet he was at no pains to discountenance the general opinion. Indeed, he rather seemed to delight in keeping up the impression ; and, as if more thoroughly to manifest his unsociable disposition to all the world, he had a carriage built with only one seat, in which he used to drive to and from the city. This vehicle he was pleased to denominate his “sulky.”

great Whig ancestors, being the grandson of Sir John Cochrane of Ochiltree, second son of the first Earl, who, having fled to Holland from the tyranny of Charles II., came over with Argyll in 1685, and was subsequently taken and brought to the Tolbooth of Edinburgh, ignominiously conducted by the common hangman, but eventually pardoned by James VII. His grandmother was a daughter of Sir William Strickland of Boynton, who had been one of Cromwell's Lords of Parliament. It is therefore little to be wondered at that he was himself a Whig, and zealously attached to the house of Hanover. We have derived some traditions respecting his family in 1745 from the daughter of one who was then his lady's waiting-maid. On the Highlanders approaching the city, Mr. Cochrane thought proper to remove to the country, and his lady (the celebrated and lovely Jean Stewart of Torsonce) was just preparing to follow him, when the Prince's army unexpectedly took possession of the capital. Our venerable authority has ‘full many a time and oft’ heard her mother describe how she and her lady looked over one of these ten windows, and saw the detachment of Cameron's Highlanders, who rushed in at the Nether Bow, marching up the High Street, while two bagpipers played, in spirit-stirring tones, ‘We'll awa' to Shirra-muir, to haud the Whigs in order.’ She has also heard her mother descant with much delight upon the ball given to the ladies of the city of Edinburgh, by the Duke of Cumberland, after his return from Culloden. Mrs. Cochrane and her maid walked down the Canongate to Holyrood House, where they were received by his Royal Highness and some of his Hessian officers ; and it is reported that the Duke, after saluting the lady, went up to her attendant, and, either because he liked her best, or because he could use the most freedom with her, favoured her with double the compliment.”

Mr. Edgar had been in his youth a Captain of Marines, and had seen much of foreign countries. Prior to his appointment as a Commissioner, he held the situation of Collector of Customs at Leith. Before he met the accident by which he was rendered lame, though rather hard-featured, he was decidedly handsome. He walked erect, without stiffness, and with considerable rapidity. His enunciation was remarkably distinct, and his phraseology correct. He was an excellent classical scholar;<sup>1</sup> and, in fine, a thorough gentleman of the old school.

Although quite a man of the world, he possessed a degree of practical philosophy which enabled him not only to relish the varied enjoyments of life, but to bear its ills with tranquillity. Where regret was unavailing, he frequently made jest of the most serious disasters. One of his limbs was shorter than the other, in consequence of having had his thigh-bone broken at Leith races, by an accident arising from the carelessness of the postillion. “D—n the fellow!” said the Captain, “he has spoiled one of the handsomest legs in Christendom.” On his way home, after the occurrence, perceiving he had to pass a friend on the road, he moved himself slightly forward in the carriage, at the same time staring and making strange contortions, as if in the last extremity. “Ah, poor Edgar!” said his friend to every acquaintance he met, “we shall never see him more—he was just expiring as I got a peep into the carriage!”

Mr. Edgar’s house was in Teviot Row, adjoining the Meadows. He spent a gay life while in town; associating with the best company, and frequenting the public places, particularly the concerts in St. Cecilia’s Hall, in the Cowgate. Before dinner, he usually took a few rounds at golf in the Links, always playing by himself; and, on fine evenings, he might be seen seated, in full dress, in the most crowded part of the Meadows, then a fashionable promenade.

In the summer months he preferred the retirement of Pendreich Cottage at Lasswade. Here his amusements were singularly characteristic; and all his domestic arrangements were admirably in keeping with his peculiarities. His invariable practice in the morning, on getting out of bed, was to walk down, encumbered with little save a towel, to bathe in the river; after which he returned to his toilette, and then sat down with a keen appetite to breakfast. Prior to his lameness, Mr. Edgar was a devoted lover of field-sports; and with the gun few sportsmen could bag as many birds. As it was he still kept a few dogs; and, in one of his fields, had a target erected, that he might enjoy an occasional shot without the fatigue of pursuing game. He had an eagle too, which he tamed, and took much pleasure in feeding.

Another favourite amusement was the school-boy practice of flying a kite. By some, who naturally conceived such a pastime to be childish, he was called

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Edgar and the celebrated Adam Smith, who was also a commissioner, used, when at the board, to amuse themselves by reciting passages from the ancient Greek authors. Neither of the two gentlemen were men of business, though, in justice to the latter, it may be mentioned, that, from an anxious desire to be useful, when first appointed to the Customs, he put himself under the instruction of Mr. Reid, then Inspector-General; but his mind continually turned to his favourite theories; and, after vain efforts, he was obliged to give up the attempt. There could hardly be a more conscientious, kind-hearted man than Adam Smith. With the wisdom of a *savant*, he had all the simplicity of a child.

the "Daft Captain ;" while others, affecting greater knowledge, supposed him, like Franklin, to be engaged in making experiments on electricity—a sad mistake, for, although he had a taste for literature, he had no fancy whatever for scientific pursuits.

Among other odd contrivances about Pendreich Cottage was a barrel summer-seat, erected in the garden, and which moved on a pivot. Here Mr. Edgar used to sit frequently for hours together, perusing the pages of some favourite author, and calmly enjoying the rural sweets of a summer evening. While thus employed, some of the neighbouring colliers, thinking to make game of the Captain, on one occasion came unperceived behind, and began to whirl him rapidly round and round, in expectation that he would sally forth and hobble after them ; but in this they were disappointed ; the Captain sat still in perfect good humour, till they were completely tired, when they went away, very much chagrined at the Commissioner's philosophical patience.

In gastronomy the Captain's knowledge was undoubted. His fame in this particular is thus noticed by the late Lord Dreghorn, in a short poetical effusion :—

" O thou, whatever title please thine ear,  
Captain, Collector, or the *beau Dineur*."

No inconsiderable portion of the Commissioner's time was devoted to the pleasures of the table ; and he always kept an experienced " man cook," who had been with him while abroad, in order that his viands might be dressed on the most approved principles. There was no scarcity of the good things of life at Pendreich Cottage—the very trees in front of the house occasionally groaned under the weight of accumulated legs of mutton, undergoing a process of curing peculiar to the establishment. As his fences were much destroyed by nocturnal predators, in their anxiety to participate in this new production of Pomona, the Commissioner caused the following notice to be put up :—  
*"All thieves are in future to enter by the gate, which will be left open every night for the purpose."*

While the well-stocked kitchen of the Commissioner was by no means inaccessible to the poor of the neighbourhood, and especially to his friends the colliers, he seldom entertained any company at the cottage. On one occasion, Mr. Dundas, afterwards Lord Melville, accompanied by Commissioner Reid, met the Captain on his walk before dinner, and asked him to take *pot-luck* with them at Melville Castle ; but the Captain was not to be prevailed on, and continued his walk. The two gentlemen, strongly suspecting that something attractive was to be found at Pendreich Cottage, called there in his absence, and learned from the housekeeper that the Commissioner proposed regaling on *stewed pigeons*—a very favourite dish, and one which he could not think of relinquishing for Melville Castle. The two visitors found ways and means to pounce upon and carry off the savoury viands, leaving the astonished cook to apologise as he best could to his master on his return. The Commissioner could relish a joke—and was in the habit both to take and give—but in no

case was his philosophy so likely to break down, as on such an occurrence as this.

Presuming on a slight acquaintance, two or three farmers of the neighbourhood called one day, just in the nick of time to sit down to dinner, in expectation of receiving a familiar welcome. The Commissioner was not to be done. He received them in such a high-bred style of formality, that his unwelcome visitors felt completely nonplussed, and were glad to escape from his presence. Having thus bowed his intruders, first out of countenance, then out of doors, he sat down *solas* to enjoy his refection.

At a very advanced period of life, and after enduring much pain, he submitted to the operation of lithotomy, which he bore with his wonted fortitude. This was performed by the well-known *Sandy Wood*, who, with the kindest anxiety remained in the house many hours afterwards, swearing he would shoot the servants through the head if they made the smallest noise, or even approached the patient's room. His great fear was that the Captain might fever, which, happily, he did not. Soon afterwards, Mr. Reid called; and the Captain, though extremely weak, drew out the stone from his pillow, and holding it up in triumph—"Here!" said he, "here is the *scoundrel* that has been torturing me for years."

Mr. Edgar recovered his health, and lived to enjoy his harmless recreations for several years afterwards. He died in 1799, much regretted, especially about Lasswade, where his singularities were best known.

#### No. CLIV.

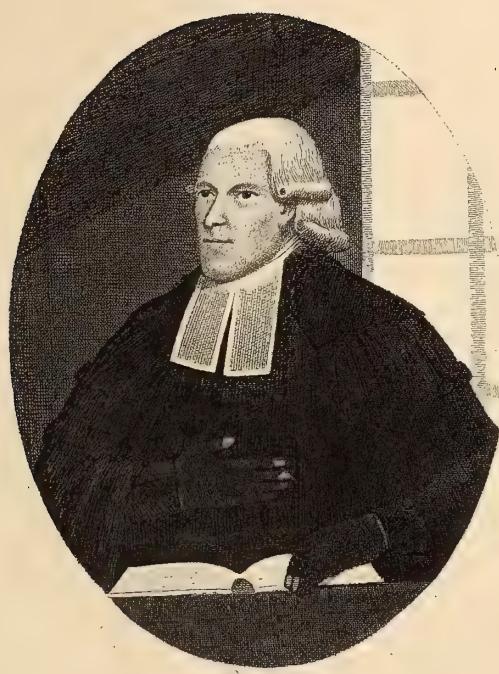
### REV. DR THOMAS DAVIDSON,

LATE OF THE TOLBOOTH CHURCH, EDINBURGH.

THIS gentleman's own name was Randall, Davidson having been assumed by him on his accession to his uncle's<sup>1</sup> property of Muirhouse, situated in the parish of Cramond, and shire of Edinburgh. He was the son of the Rev. Thomas Randall, minister of Inchture (afterwards one of the ministers of Stirling), whose father and grandfather were also clergymen of the Church of Scotland.

MR. DAVIDSON was born at Inchture in 1747, and passed through the academical classes at the College of Glasgow. He afterwards studied for a short time at the University of Leyden, where his attention was more particularly devoted to Biblical criticism.

<sup>1</sup> William Davidson, for many years a considerable merchant in Rotterdam. He bought the property of Muirhouse in 1776 from Robert Watson, whose ancestor, an Edinburgh trader, had acquired the estate towards the end of the seventeenth century.





During his residence in Holland, Mr. Davidson was licensed to preach the gospel according to the Presbyterian form ; and his first sermon was delivered at Amsterdam. In 1771, his father having been translated to Stirling, Mr. Davidson was ordained to the parish of Inchture, where he remained only two years, having in 1773 been called to the Outer High Church of Glasgow ; from thence he was transferred to Lady Yester's Church, Edinburgh ; and again translated to the Tolbooth Church in 1785.

Dr. Davidson was a sound, practical, and zealous preacher ; and, much as he was esteemed in the pulpit, was no less respected by his congregation and all who knew him, for those domestic and private excellences which so much endear their possessor to society.

To all public charities he contributed largely, and was generally among the first to stimulate by his example. Even when his income was circumscribed, a tenth part of it was regularly devoted to the poor ; and when he subsequently succeeded to a valuable inheritance, the event seemed only to elevate him in proportion as it placed within his reach the means of extending the range of his charities.

Another amiable trait in the character of Dr. Davidson was the interest which he took in the success of the students of divinity, with whom circumstances might bring him into contact. To such as he found labouring under pecuniary disadvantages his hand was always open ; and there are many respectable ministers in the church who can bear testimony to his generous and fatherly attentions. In religious matters, and in the courts connected with the church, he took a sincere interest ; but was by no means inclined to push himself prominently before the public. In cases of emergency, or when he conceived that duty called him, none could be more resolute or firm of purpose. A characteristic instance of this is related in the funeral sermon preached in the Tolbooth Church, on the demise of Dr. Davidson, by the Rev. George Muirhead, D.D., minister of Cramond. “He had been for some time in a valetudinary state, and went very little from home ; and he was so unwell that day, that he resolved not to attend the meeting of Presbytery. But conceiving it to be his duty (when he understood that there was to be some discussion about projected alterations in the churches contained in the building of St. Giles's) to attend, even at the risk of injuring his health, he came forward, and, in a speech of some length, in which he alluded to his own situation as about to leave the world, so as to have no personal interest in the projected changes, and in which he declared himself not unfriendly to building churches in the New Town, and to repairing and ornamenting St. Giles's, he earnestly remonstrated against diminishing the number of churches in the Old Town, proving that the number of churches there was altogether inadequate for the number of its inhabitants ; and that it was not to be supposed that the class who inhabited the houses of the Old Town could get accommodation in the churches built or building in the New Town. It was very affecting, and at the same time gratifying, to behold the venerable father of the Presbytery thus

solemnly taking farewell of the public concerns of the church on earth, with the glory of the church of heaven full in his view ; and to perceive that, while the frail tabernacle of the body was evidently coming down, there was no want of mental vigour, and no want of deep interest in what respected the spiritual improvement of the community with which he had been so long connected."

Dr. Davidson died at Muirhouse on the evening of Sabbath, 28th October 1827, and was succeeded in the Tolbooth Church by the Rev. James Marshall, sometime minister of the Outer Church of Glasgow.

Only three of Dr. Davidson's sermons were published, and these were delivered on public occasions. One of them, preached before the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, on the propitiation of Christ, has been much admired.

Dr. Davidson was twice married. By his first wife, a sister of the late Provost Anderson, bookseller in Stirling, among other children, he had a son, Captain William Davidson, who succeeded him in his estates. By his second wife, a sister of Lord Cockburn, he had several children.

Besides the estate of Muirhouse, Dr. Davidson was proprietor of the Old Barony of Hatton, which had belonged to the Lauderdale family, and which, having been acquired by the Duchess of Portland, was sold in lots ; and a considerable portion of it, including the old mansion-house and patronage of the parish of Ratho, was purchased by him. The residence of Dr. Davidson in Edinburgh was successively in Windmill Street, Princes Street, and Heriot Row.

#### No. CLV.

### COLONEL PATRICK CRICHTON,

OF THE EDINBURGH VOLUNTEERS, WITH A VIEW OF THE AWKWARD SQUAD.

THE principal figure in this scene at Bruntsfield Links gives an excellent portrait of COLONEL PATRICK CRICHTON, in the attitude of directing the movements of a body of Volunteers. The stout personage in the background, to the rear of the Colonel, is Captain Coulter, afterwards Lord Provost, who obtained great celebrity for a declaration which he made on one occasion, at a civic feast. His health having been drunk, he embraced the opportunity, in returning thanks, of placing his martial avocations in opposition to his civic ones, and wound up the harangue by exclaiming—"Although I am in body a stocking-weaver, yet I am in soul a *Sheeypy!*" (Scipio). He retained the name of *Sheeypy* ever afterwards. The left hand man of the grenadiers is Robert Sym, Esq., W.S.

Colonel Crichton, whose father, Alexander Crichton, carried on the business of coach-building in the Canongate for many years, was a gentleman well known



EDIN<sup>R</sup> ROYAL VOLUNTEERS.

LEWIS 1794

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and very much respected in Edinburgh. He entered the army when young, and attained the rank of Captain in the 57th Regiment. He served in America during the War of Independence, and distinguished himself so much that he received the public thanks of the Commander of the Forces.

At the close of the war, Captain Crichton retired from the army, and entered into partnership with his father.<sup>1</sup> When the first Regiment of Edinburgh Volunteers was formed, on account of his former military services, he was chosen second Major and Captain of the East New Town Company—an honour fully merited, as a great portion of the labour of organisation devolved upon him. He also undertook the formation of the second battalion,<sup>2</sup> raised in 1796, of which he was appointed Lieut.-Colonel.

About this period Colonel Crichton fought a duel with Mr. Bennet,<sup>3</sup> surgeon in Edinburgh, in which the former was wounded. The ball entered near the left side of the chest, passed through part of the pectoral muscle, and came out behind, near the edge of the blade-bone. The wound was severe but not dangerous, and he speedily recovered.

When the Local Militia was embodied in 1805, Mr. Crichton was appointed Lieut.-Colonel Commandant of the second Edinburgh Regiment. In connection with this body several anecdotes are related of the Colonel, very much to his credit as a philanthropist. One instance we must not refrain from mentioning. A person of the name of S——t, one of the *fifers* of the regiment, having been rendered powerless in one of his sides by a stroke of palsy only a day or two subsequent to his marriage, no sooner was the circumstance made known to the Colonel than he became deeply interested in his favour. Militiamen are not entitled by law to a pension; but, trusting to the peculiarity of his case, Colonel Crichton caused S——t to proceed to London, that he might personally make application to Government. He of course furnished him with means, and the necessary recommendations. S——t remained some time in London; and after much harassing delay, had the mortification to find all his endeavours unavailing. In this dilemma he communicated with Colonel Crichton, who immediately wrote in his behalf to an influential quarter, when a pension was granted without further delay. S——t lived to enjoy the benefit of the Colonel's humane exertions. Mr. Crichton's generosity was the more remarkable, as he had previously been much annoyed with the *fifer's* irregularities and inattention to duty.

<sup>1</sup> The firm was subsequently changed to Crichton and Field; and latterly to Crichton, Gall, and Thomson.

<sup>2</sup> The second battalion had their mess in Henry Young's, Bruntsfield Links, where the Duke of Buccleuch (the Colonel) often dined with them.

<sup>3</sup> The duel is said to have originated in this way. Bennet had sent his chaise to the coach-yard of Crichton and Field, for the purpose of being repaired. Some altercation on the subject took place betwixt Bennet and Field, and high words ensued. It was with Field that the quarrel commenced, as Crichton was not present during the altercation. Field (an American by birth) challenged Bennet; but the latter declined to meet him, alleging that his rank was not that of a gentleman. Upon this Crichton took the matter upon himself, and offered to fight Bennet—a proposition which was at once acceded to.

Mr. Crichton entered the Town Council in 1794, as one of the Merchant Councillors, and held the office of Treasurer in 1795-6. He died at his own house in Gayfield Square, on the 14th of May 1823. He was a fine manly-looking person, rather florid in his complexion ; exceedingly polite in his manners, and of gentlemanly attainments.

Mr. Crichton was married, and had a family. One of his sons, Archibald William, was knighted by George IV. The Colonel's brother Alexander was long in the Russian service as physician to the late Emperor Alexander of Russia, who conferred upon him the honour of knighthood. Sir Alexander Crichton visited his native country about the year 1834.

#### No. CLVI.

### GEORGE FERGUSSON, LORD HERMAND.

LORD HERMAND, so well known on the western circuit, was the eighth son of Sir James Fergusson of Kilkerran,<sup>1</sup> one of the Senators of the College of Justice, under the title of Lord Kilkerran.

Mr. Fergusson was admitted advocate in 1765, and practised successfully at the bar for thirty-four years, when, on the death of Macqueen of Braxfield in 1799, he was promoted to the bench, and took his seat by the title of Lord Hermand, from a small estate of that name which he possessed about sixteen miles west of Edinburgh. He was also appointed a Commissioner of Justiciary in 1808, on the resignation of Lord Dunsinian ; and it is in this capacity that the character of Lord Hermand is best known to the public. His severity of manner on the bench was perhaps more peculiarly suited to the criminal court ; yet as a judge in civil causes, he was eminently honest and upright ; and his opinions were invariably guided by the most scrupulous attention to justice. He was one of the judges in the case of *Baird and McLaren*, who were tried at Edinburgh in 1817, for seditious speeches delivered at a public meeting held near Kilmarnock, and who were sentenced to six months' imprisonment in the Canongate jail. He was on the bench during almost all the other political trials in the west ; and from this circumstance alone is well known as a Justiciary Lord in that part of the country.

When at the bar, Lords Hermand and Newton were great "cronies," and had many convivial meetings together ; but the former outlived all his old last-century contemporaries of the bar, and for many years remained alone, as it were, the only connecting link between the past and present race of Scottish lawyers.

<sup>1</sup> Sir James married Lady Jean Maitland, the only child of Lord Maitland, eldest son of John Earl of Lauderdale. Kilkerran is situated near to the Water of Girvan, in the parish of Daily. The scenery around is highly romantic ; and, by the plantations and improvements of Sir James and his successors, is now an object of much interest to tourists.



I KAY. 1795



He was, in short, the *very last specimen* (Lord Balgray perhaps excepted) of the old race of Scottish advocates. He was universally allowed to be a “capital lawyer;” and, notwithstanding his hasty demeanour on the bench, and the incautious sarcasms in which he occasionally indulged at the expense of the advocates before him, he was a great favourite with the younger portion of the bar, who loved him the more for the peculiarities of his manner. He was himself enthusiastic in the recollection of bygone days, and scorned the cold and stiff formality which the decorum of modern times has thrown over the legal character. Of the warmth of his feelings in this respect, a very characteristic instance is related in *Peter's Letters to his Kinsfolk*;—“When *Guy Mannering* came out, the Judge was so much delighted with the picture of the life of the old Scottish lawyers in that most charming novel, that he could talk of nothing else but Pleydell, Dandie, and the high-jinks for many weeks. He usually carried one volume of the book about with him ; and one morning, on the bench, his love for it so completely got the better of him, that he lugged in the subject head and shoulders, into the midst of a speech about some most dry point of law ; nay, getting warmer every moment he spoke of it, he at last fairly plucked the volume from his pocket, and, in spite of all the remonstrances of all his brethren, insisted upon reading aloud the whole passage for their edification. He went through the task with his wonted vivacity, gave great effect to every speech, and most appropriate expression to every joke. During the whole scene Sir Walter Scott was present, seated, indeed, in his official capacity, close under the Judge.”

Latterly his lordship sometimes made strange mistakes. A somewhat amusing instance of his forgetfulness occurred during one of the circuit trials. A point of law having been started, the counsel on either side cited their authorities. The prisoner's counsel founded on the opinion expressed by Mr. Burnet in his treatise on Criminal Law ; whilst the Crown counsel appealed to Mr. Baron Hume's authority, which happened to be the other way. Lord Hermand heard the former very patiently ; but, when the name of Hume was mentioned, he interrupted the barrister, saying, that during the course of a long life he had heard many strange things, but certainly, this was the first time he had ever heard a novel-writer quoted as a law authority. Accordingly, without farther ceremony, to the amazement of all present, he decided the point against the Crown. In the evening some one of the young men present at the circuit dinner ventured to ask his lordship, who was in admirable humour, for an explanation, when it turned out that the venerable Judge, being accustomed to see Baron Hume and Sir Walter Scott sitting together for a series of years at the Clerk's table in the First Division of the Court, had, by some unaccountable, mental process, confounded the one with the other ; and the fictions of the latter being always present in his mind, the valuable legal treatise of the former had entirely escaped his memory.

The following assumed speech by Lord Hermand, in a supposed divorce case

of parties married in England, was some years since handed about amongst the gentlemen of the long robe. It is a fair travesty of his style:—

“ I am decidedly of the opinion of Lord Meadowbank,<sup>1</sup> and that the Commissioners were egregiously wrong. Will any man tell me that a stranger, without a domicile here, is to be refused justice for any guilt or crime done by him? Is a man who marries in England, and commits adultery in Scotland, to be out of the reach of the Scots law against adultery? Such a man may turn his wife out of doors too—may even go farther against her and her children—and all with impunity, upon the feigned supremacy of the *lex loci contractus*. In short, if a man comes to Scotland *sine animo remanendi*, and *cum animo peccandi* steals my horse, are we first to inquire into his domicile, and the laws of his country respecting theft? Now, I am clearly of opinion that he ought to be hanged upon our own law; and a decree of divorce, *a vinculo matrimonii*, ought equally to follow the commission of adultery here.

“ But, secondly, should any of the English divorced parties be averse to our consistorial decree, he may, on his return to England, apply to a court of law, by recapitulating *our* decision, and get it altered to one *a mensa et thoro*; but when no such application has been made, the parties may truly marry without the risk of bigamy, or the insecurity of a new family, unless the English courts, of which I dinna know much, are senseless and absurd. Indeed, their decision *a mensa et thoro* is, like our *Jack and the Bean*, an absurd nothing, till Parliament, and a huge expense, commissary it (I may say) into our form. We must follow our own laws; and should our southerns deem them improper, and have no remedy, let them procure an Act of Parliament, declaring that any person feeling hurt by the Scots decree may, within six weeks after his arrival in England, apply to a court of law there, and get the Scottish decree altered into an English one; and should no application during that time be made, the party or parties may marry at pleasure, and their offspring be protected by law. If England requires much time and money to procure a parliamentary divorce, why should not our Scottish ‘good cheer and good cheap ca’ mony customers,’ as our proverb says?”

Of Lord Hermand’s rather eccentric warmth on the bench, there are many anecdotes. The well-known but highly characteristic one of “Keep him out,” and which has been retailed to the public in a variety of shapes, occurred in the Justiciary Court of Glasgow. The Court had been interrupted by a noise which annoyed him very much. “What is that noise?” cried his lordship to one of the officers of the Court. “It’s a man, my lord.” “What does he want?” “He wants in, my lord.” “Keep him out.” The man, it would appear, however, had got in: for in a short time the noise was renewed, when his lordship again demanded—“What’s that noise there?” “It’s the same man, my lord.” “What does he want now?” “He wants out, my lord.” “Then keep him in—I say, keep him in!”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> His lordship did not usually agree with his brother judge; and many curious stories of his dislike to Lord Meadowbank used to be current in the Parliament House.

<sup>2</sup> On another occasion, when presiding in a criminal court in the north, and the business of the trial, in which life and death were at stake, was proceeding with that solemnity which distinguishes our Justiciary Courts, a wag (for there are some characters who must have their joke, however solemn the occasion) entered the Court, and set a musical snuff-box a-playing *Jack’s Alive* upon one of the benches. In the silence of conducting the inquiry, the music struck the ears of the audience, and particularly the venerable judge, whose auricular organ was to the last most admirably acute; and a pause to the business was the immediate consequence. He stared for an instant on hearing a sound so unusual in a Court of Justice, and, with a frantic demeanour exclaimed, “Macer, what, in the name of God, is that?” The officer looked around him in vain to answer the inquiry, when the wag exclaimed, “It’s *Jack’s Alive*, my lord.” “Dead or alive, put him out this moment.” “We cannae grub him, my lord.” “If he has the art of hell, let every man assist to arraign him before me, that I may commit him for this outrage and contempt.” Every one endeavoured to discover the author of the annoyance, but he had put the check upon the box, when the sound for a

In private life, and especially at the convivial board, Lord Hermand was  
 “The prince of good fellows and king of old men.”

He possessed a rich store of amusing stories, and a vein of humour peculiar to himself, which never failed to render his company entertaining and much courted, especially by the junior members of the profession. His personal appearance was no less striking, particularly in his latter years. Age had rendered his features more attenuated; but the vivacity of his countenance, and the expression of his powerful grey eyes, defied the insidious hand of time. His dress also partook of the peculiarities of his character; and, on the streets of Edinburgh, it would have puzzled a stranger to decide whether the lawyer or farmer most predominated in his appearance. His deep “rig-and-fur,” black-and-white-striped woollen stockings, and stout shoes, at once denoted that he had other avocations than those of the Parliament House. Like most of the old lawyers, he was an enthusiastic agriculturist, and always spent his vacations among his fields at Hermand, which he improved with much skill and at considerable expense.<sup>1</sup>

We have heard several anecdotes illustrative of his lordship’s rustic habits during the vacation. He had a large Newfoundland dog, named *Dolphin*, which used to accompany him on all his excursions—even to the church on Sundays. There the sagacious animal, seated beside his master, with his immense paws placed on the book-board, would rest his head as calmly and doucely as any sleepy farmer in the congregation. So much did this church-going propensity grow upon the animal, that, in the absence of his master, he regularly went himself; and what was still more extraordinary, if there happened to be no sermon in the parish church, he was liberal enough to attend the dissenting meeting-house. Lord Hermand generally walked with a cane in his hand, to which he had a kind of bill-hook affixed, for the purpose of switching down any obnoxious weed he might find in his rambles. One Sunday, as he and *Dolphin* were proceeding as usual to West Calder, his lordship found so many weeds to cut down on his way through the policies, that by the time he emerged from the avenue he found the people returning from church. “Dear me! is’t a’ ower

time ceased, and the macer informed his lordship that the person had escaped. The Judge was indignant at this; but not being able to make a better of it, the trial proceeded, when, in about half-an-hour, sounds of music again caught the ears of the Court. “Is he there again?” exclaimed his lordship. “By all that’s sacred, he shall not escape me this time; fence, bolt, bar the doors of the Court; and, at your peril, let a man, living or dead, escape.” All was now bustle, uproar, and confusion; but the search was equally vain as before. His lordship, who had lived not long after the days of witchcraft, began to imagine that the sound was something more than earthly, and exclaimed, “This is a *deception auris*; it is absolute delusion, necromancy, phantasmagoria;” and to the hour of his death, never understood what had occasioned the annoyance that day to the Court.

<sup>1</sup> His lordship was a keen adherent of the Pitt administration. When the “talents” were ejected, the news reached him on his way to the Parliament House; and, whilst going along the Mound, which at the time had its usual array of caravans, containing wild beasts, he, totally forgetful of where he was, exclaimed aloud—“They are out—by the L—d, they are all out, every mother’s son of them.” A lady who was passing at the time, thinking these ejaculations applicable to the wild beasts, to his utter amazement, seized him in her arms, screaming out—“Good God, we shall then be all devoured.”

already !” said he to the first group he met ; “ I may just gang my way back again.” He accordingly did so ; but *Dolphin* was not of a similar mind. Forward he went, in spite of all his lordship’s exertions to prevent him. He of course found the church-doors closed ; but, no doubt recollecting that the dissenters were not so short-winded, *Dolphin* proceeded to the meeting-house, where he remained in his usual position until sermon was finished.

As may well be guessed, the dog was a great favourite with Lord Hermand. Naturally of a kind disposition, he was particularly indulgent to *Dolphin*. So long as his master remained at Hermand the animal fared on the best ; but during his absence, was treated much in the fashion of other dogs. *Dolphin* had not only sagacity enough to understand this, but displayed a surprising degree of wisdom and foresight in the mode he took to mitigate the evil. He apparently knew exactly at what time his lordship’s avocations in the Court of Session recalled him to the city ; and, accordingly, about a fortnight previous he commenced carrying away whatever he could lay his paws on in the shape of butcher-meat. These savoury pieces he carefully hid in the woods, to make up for the scanty fare of *brochan* to which he was reduced during the “ sitting of the Session.”

Lord Hermand’s warmth of temper was not confined to occasional sallies on the bench. An amusing instance occurred on one occasion at Hermand. A large party were at dinner, and his lordship in excellent humour, when one of the waiting-men, in handing over a wine decanter, unfortunately let it fall to the floor, by which it was smashed to pieces. This unlucky accident at once overbalanced his lordship’s equanimity. He sprang to his feet in a fury of passion, and, darting over chairs and every impediment, rushed after the fellow, who fled precipitately down stairs. The dinner party were thrown into convulsions of laughter, and had scarcely regained their composure, when his lordship returned from the chase, and resumed his chair as if nothing had occurred to disturb the harmony.

Lord Hermand married Miss Graham M'Dowall, daughter of William M'Dowall of Garthland, Esq., but had no issue. His lordship resigned his office as a Senator of the College of Justice in 1826 ; and died at Hermand on the 9th of August 1827, upwards of eighty years of age. His widow survived him for several years. He left the liferent of his estate of Hermand to Mrs. Fergusson and, after her demise, to her niece, the wife of Thomas Maitland, Esq., advocate, and their second son ; with special legacies to the second son of each of his other nieces, Mrs. Cockburn and Mrs. Fullerton, the wives of two of the Senators of the College of Justice.





## No. CLVII.

## MR. JOHN SHIELLS,

SURGEON.

MR. SHIELLS was a native of Peeblesshire ; and, prior to commencing business as a surgeon and apothecary, held a situation in connection with the Royal Infirmary. His first shop was in a land immediately above the Tron Kirk—demolished when Hunter Square was formed ; and from thence he moved to Nicolson Street. He was short in stature, and latterly became very corpulent.

In his day few professional men possessed a carriage of any description ; and, finding himself incapable of making his visits on foot, Mr. Shiells bethought himself that a horse might answer his purpose. To this the only objection was that he was no equestrian. It consequently became an object of primary importance to procure an animal sufficiently docile and sure-footed ; which qualities he at last found in the sagacious-looking grey pony,<sup>1</sup> of mature years so correctly delineated by the artist in the etching.

The scene represented in the Print is to the life. Mr. Shiells and the pony are proceeding leisurely on their rounds, apparently on the best understanding, and seemingly pleased with each other. The surgeon, with his broad half-cocked hat, and his lightly elevated whip, evidently has not attained the free attitude of an experienced rider ; yet the complacency of his jolly countenance is expressive of the great degree of confidence he reposes in the wisdom and fidelity of the animal.

The figure behind represents the boy, Willie, who acted as groom. He always accompanied his master, for the purpose of carrying his walking-staff—to take care of the horse while he was detained in the house of a patient—and to aid him in again mounting his charger. This was a task which generally occupied nearly three minutes in accomplishing ; and it was truly amusing to witness the exertions of the boy to get his master's leg over the saddle, while the struggle made by Mr. Shiells himself for that purpose was exceedingly grotesque.

Among his patients at one period was a Mr. Ramage, who kept a shop in the Lawnmarket. This person was well known as a keen sportsman, and much famed for his excellence in breaking dogs. Having fallen into bad health, he was for some time daily visited by Mr. Shiells ; but what was rather surprising for an invalid, the *patient*, with his head enveloped in a red nightcap, used regularly to accompany the doctor to the door, and, setting his shoulder to the seat of honour of the worthy son of Galen, assisted in reinstating him in his saddle.

<sup>1</sup> His first charger was a *brown* pony.

Mr. Shiells was married, and had a daughter, who died young. He was much respected in his profession, and bore the character of a charitable and humane man. He died on the 23d September 1798. The boy was subsequently for many years a porter in the Candlemaker Row.

The charge made for a visit was only *one shilling!*—yet Mr. Shiells accumulated a good deal of money, the greater portion of which he left to his sister's family. His niece, Miss Lawrie, kept the shop for many years after her uncle's death, and was married to Mr. A. Henderson, jeweller.

### No. CLVIII.

#### MR. ROBERT JOHNSTON,

AND

#### MISS SIBILLA HUTTON.

No other reason has been assigned by the artist for grouping these two individuals together, than that they were the most corpulent shopkeepers in Edinburgh at the time, and had their places of business in the Royal Exchange buildings.

MR. JOHNSTON was the son of the Rev. John Johnston, minister of Arngask,<sup>1</sup> and brother-german to Dr. Johnston of North Leith. He carried on business for many years as a private banker, in company with Mr. Donald Smith, under the firm of Johnston and Smith. This concern, however, proved unfortunate, having met with a series of losses—among the first of which was a robbery to a considerable amount. The particulars of this affair are fully given in the following advertisements from the *Courant* of 1768 :—

"On Friday evening last (the 12th August) the lock of the outer door of the compting-house of Johnston and Smith, bankers in the Exchange, was opened by some wicked persons, as supposed by a counterfeit key, and eight hundred pounds sterling stolen out of their drawers, in the following Bank notes, viz.—

Of the Royal, and Bank of Scotland . . .	£194	9	0
British Linen Company . . .	362	2	0
Dumfries Notes . . .	126	0	0
Glasgow Notes . . .	64	10	0
General Bank of Perth . . .	32	0	0
Dundee Notes (Jobson's) . . .	40	0	0
Several small Notes and Silver . . .	11	1	0
	£830	2	0

<sup>1</sup> The church at Arngask is called "the visible kirk," from its great altitude.





It is entreated that every honest person will give the Magistrates of Edinburgh, or Johnston and Smith, notice of any circumstances that may fall under their observation for discovering the offenders ; and farther, the said Johnston and Smith will give the informer a reward of Five Pounds sterling for every hundred pounds sterling that shall be recovered in consequence of such information. As some smith may very innocently have made a key from an impression of clay or wax, such smith giving information, as above, so as the person who got the key may be discovered, shall be handsomely rewarded."

" BY ORDER OF THE HONOURABLE THE MAGISTRATES OF EDINBURGH.

"Whereas, on Sunday night last, the 14th inst., there was laid down or dropped at the door of the Council Chamber of this City, the sum of two hundred and twenty-five pounds sterling, in bank notes, wrapped in a piece of grey paper, which was found by Robert Burton, a porter, and immediately after delivered by him to one of the Magistrates : This is to give notice, that the above sum is now sealed up, and in the hands of the City Clerks, and will be delivered to any person who shall prove the property thereof, with deduction of a reasonable allowance to the porter who found it."

The notes were proved to be the property of Messrs. Johnston and Smith. In addition to the reward, a proclamation was issued by the King, promising a free pardon to any one, except the principal, concerned in the robbery, who should make a disclosure ; and, as a farther inducement, fifty guineas additional were offered by Johnston and Smith to the informer. These measures were ineffectual ; and no traces of the delinquent could be found, till the apprehension of Deacon Brodie, twenty years afterwards, induced strong suspicion that he was concerned in it.<sup>1</sup>

Not long after this affair, the firm experienced some severe reverses, arising from a sudden depression in trade, besides losing a box containing one thousand guineas, which fell into the sea at Leith, while being handed from a boat to the ship in which it was to be forwarded to London. Immediately after this accident the firm stopped payment, and compounded with their creditors at the rate of fifteen shillings in the pound. Various attempts were made to recover the box. Among others who dived for the treasure was a tailor in Leith, somewhat famous for his aquatic dexterity. All his exertions, however, although repeated with great perseverance for some time, proved unsuccessful.

The copartnery was now broken up ; after which Mr. Smith commenced business on his own account, as a private banker ; and, during the remainder of a long life, was highly successful and respected, and filled the office of Lord Provost in the years 1807 and 1808.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Johnston also continued, for several years, to discount bills in a small way, until a Mr. John Alston, hardware and

<sup>1</sup> It was then recollect that, prior to the robbery, the Deacon had been employed in making various repairs on the premises of Johnston and Smith, and had occasion to be frequently in the bank. The key of the outer door, from which it was ascertained he had taken an impression in putty, usually hung in the passage, which was rather dark and narrow. The premises were afterwards occupied by Mr. Adam Luke, draper, and treasurer to Heriot's Hospital.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Smith married Miss Palmer, daughter of an eminent cabinet-maker in Chapel Street, by whom he obtained considerable property. He died at his house in West Nicolson Street, in 1814, aged seventy-five. His son, the late Alexander Smith, Esq., who carried on the banking business, met with a tragical fate, having been killed in the spring of 1833, by the falling in of the floor of a house in Picardy Place, during the sale of the collection of pictures belonging to the late John Clerk of Eldin, Esq., one of the Senators of the College of Justice.

toy merchant,<sup>1</sup> having failed, he took the bankrupt's goods at a valuation, and entered into his shop as his successor. In the course of a short time he added groceries to his other stock ; and, finding that branch turn out the most advantageous, latterly discarded the hardware business altogether.

Mr. Johnston's manner was peculiar, and he spoke very fast and indistinctly. He died on the 20th May 1797, aged sixty-three.

The other bulky figure, with the indescribable head-dress, kept a millinery establishment, as has been already mentioned, in the Royal Exchange. MISS SIBILLA HUTTON was the daughter of a very worthy dissenting clergyman, the Rev. Mr. William Hutton of Dalkeith.<sup>2</sup> *Sibby*—for that was the name by which she was best known—was, without exception, the most fantastic lady of her day. This disposition grew with her growth, and strengthened with her strength. She by no means coincided with the poet's idea of beauty—

“When unadorned, adorned the most.”

From her infancy she had been remarkable for her love of ornament ; and, notwithstanding all the injunctions and rebukes of her father, Sibby still admired and followed the capricious changes of fashion.

Sibby carried on business to great purpose, and daily added to the heaviness of her purse, as well as to the rotundity of her person. Neither did she neglect her early imbibed notions of personal decoration. She was always at the head of the *ton*, and indeed generally so far in advance that few attempted to follow. Miss Sibilla's silks, too, and the profusion of lace with which she was overlaid, were always of the most costly description, and must have been procured at immense expense.

During her residence in Edinburgh she occasionally visited her friends at Dalkeith. The old Secession minister was sadly scandalised at Sibby's obduracy in the practice of vain ornament. One day Sibby appeared at Dalkeith with the identical head-dress in which she is portrayed in the Print. It was the first occasion on which it had graced her portly figure. “Sibby ! Sibby !” said the father, with more than usual gravity ; “do you really expect to get to heaven with such a bonnet on your head ?” “And why not, father ?” said Sibilla, with her accustomed good humour ; “I'm sure I'll make a better appear-

<sup>1</sup> Merchant in Scotland at that time was applied to all traders, whether wholesale or retail.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Hutton was rather famed for lengthy sermons. An anecdote is told of him and the Rev. Mr. Sheriff, whose prayers are said to have been so wonderfully efficacious in driving Paul Jones to sea, when that adventurer threatened to land at Leith in 1779. The Dalkeith minister was on one occasion preaching before the Synod, when, on the expiry of the first hour, by way of giving him a gentle hint, Mr. Sheriff held out his watch in such a way as he could not fail to observe it. The preacher paused for a moment, but immediately went on with renewed vigour, till another hour had expired. Mr. Sheriff then repeated his former motion, but still without effect ; and a third hour elapsed ere the sermon came to a conclusion. At dinner the preacher ventured to inquire the reason of his friend's having acted the part of monitor. “I will tell you,” said Mr. Sheriff. “The first hour I heard you with pleasure, and, as I hope every one else did, with profit ; the second, I listened with impatience ; and the third with *contempt* !”





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ance there than you will do with that vile, old-fashioned black wig which you have worn for these last twenty years!"

The good clergyman, tired of private expostulation, resolved to change his tactics. One Sabbath, when Sibby sat in the meeting-house, as she sometimes did, her father chose to be very severe on the vanity and sinfulness of female ornaments; and went so minutely to work as to describe the very bonnet and dress of Miss Sibilla; yet this availed not. Sibby did not abridge the rotundity of her bonnet a single inch, until compelled by an *influence* more powerful than her father's sermon—the dictates of fashion.

Sibby at length got tired of what appeared to her the everlasting sameness of Edinburgh, and the dull monotony of a trip to Dalkeith. Besides, she considered her professional talents worthy of a wider field. She therefore resolved to establish herself in London, which she actually did about the year 1790, and was succeeded in the shop and business by a sister, Mrs. Kid, wife of Captain Kid, master of one of the London traders.

Respecting Miss Sibilla's success in the great metropolis—how long she remained, or how she relished the change of scene—we can say nothing; but that she returned to Edinburgh is certain. She died there in the month of February 1808. Her death is thus recorded:—"Lately at Edinburgh, Miss Sibilla Hutton, daughter of the late Rev. William Hutton, minister of the gospel at Dalkeith."

#### No. CLIX.

### MR. JOHN BENNET,

SURGEON.

THIS gentleman was born in Edinburgh, where his father, who originally came from Fifeshire, carried on the business of a brewer. His mother was a daughter of the Rev. Mr. Taylor, one of the ministers of the city. After completing his studies at the University, MR. BENNET obtained the appointment of Surgeon to the Sutherland Fencibles, which were embodied in 1779. With his corps he continued until it was disbanded in 1783, when he returned to Edinburgh, and entered into partnership with Mr. Law of Elvingston, a medical gentleman in good practice.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The late James Law, Esq., of Elvingston (East Lothian)—descended from a family of some antiquity in Fife—died at his house in York Place on the 3d June 1830. He was a member of the Royal College of Physicians—much distinguished for his professional skill—and not less respected for his virtues and benevolence in the domestic relations of life. An engraving, from a portrait of Mr. Law by Sir Henry Raeburn, was given to the public in 1836, by the Publisher of this Work.

Soon after he began business, a circumstance occurred, which not only tended to increase his professional fame, but proved the origin of no less an incident in his domestic history than that of “setting up a carriage.” One day Mr. James Dempster, jeweller in the Parliament Square, after a fit of hard drinking, threatened, in the company of some of his cronies, to cut his own throat. One of the individuals present (Mr. Hamilton of Wishaw), a gentleman of very convivial habits, jocularly said—“I will save you that trouble ;” and, suiting the action to the word, advanced with a knife in a threatening attitude towards the jeweller, and very nearly converted jest into earnest, by accidentally making a severe incision. Hamilton, in a state of great alarm, instantly sent for Mr. Bennet, who closed up the wound, and afterwards effected a rapid cure of his patient. Mr. Hamilton was so much satisfied with the important service rendered on this occasion, that he presented Mr. Bennet with an elegant chariot.

Mr. Bennet possessed the polish and pleasant manners of a well-bred gentleman, and was accustomed to mix in the best society. With the late Duke of Gordon (then Marquis of Huntly), Maule of Panmure (Lord Panmure), and many other persons of family, he was on terms of intimacy. He is accused of having occasionally indulged in those excesses and frolics which, some thirty years ago, were deemed extremely fashionable. On one occasion, having lost a sporting bet for “dinner and drink,” Mr. Bennet entertained his friends in a house of good cheer at Leith. It had been a condition of the wager that the party should be taken to the theatre at night at the expense of the loser. After dinner Mr. Bennet caused the wine, as well as a more stimulating beverage, to be pretty freely circulated ; so that the wassailers were soon, according to the notions of the Indians, in a “state of perfect happiness.” At the hour appointed, instead of the common hackney conveyances, a number of *mourning coaches* drew up, in which the revellers seated themselves, and were driven to the theatre in slow time, amid the wonderment of a numerous crowd, who were no less astonished at the mirth of the mourners than amazed at the place where the procession halted.

These and other unprofessional frolics did not injure Mr. Bennet in his career ; on the contrary, they rather tended to increase his celebrity. He was appointed Surgeon to the Garrison of Edinburgh Castle in 1791 ; and elected President of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1803. And such was his status among the citizens in 1805, that, when the volunteer corps called the “Loyal Edinburgh Spearmen” were embodied, he held the honourable commission of Lieut.-Colonel Commandant of the regiment.

This band of citizen warriors had their stand of colours delivered to them on the 12th of August, in Heriot’s Hospital Green. We quote the following brief account of it :—

“The colours were presented by Mrs. Bennet, the Colonel’s lady, and Miss Scott of Logie, with an appropriate speech from each ; and consecrated by the Rev. Mr. Brunton, one of the ministers

of Edinburgh, their chaplain, in a most impressive prayer. The battalion was immediately after inspected by Brigadier-General Graham and Colonel Callander, who expressed themselves highly pleased with the appearance and discipline of the corps. To those pieces of ceremony succeeded the presentation of an elegant silver cup to Colonel Bennet, from the non-commissioned officers and privates of the regiment, delivered by Field-Serjeant Thomas Sommers, who, upon the occasion, addressed the Colonel in a most impressive manner. This being over, the battalion marched upon a visit to the Commander-in-Chief (the Earl of Moira), at Duddingston House, when his lordship took a view of the regiment in line; and, when formed into a hollow square, addressed them in a manner truly complimentary and striking. They immediately after returned to town, when, upon depositing the colours in the Colonel's house, they were regaled by him in a very liberal and handsome style of hospitality.”

About the same period, Mr. Bennet received another testimony of respect, by having the freedom of the city of Londonderry conferred upon him. It was transmitted in a silver box by William Leckie, Esq., senior magistrate, to Mr. Bennet for his kindness and attention to his son—a student at the University—who fell in a duel near Duddingston. The following short account was all that was given of this fatal affair at the time:—

“Wednesday morning, July 3 (1805), a duel was fought, in the neighbourhood of Duddingston, between Mr. Romney and Mr. Leckie, students attending the medical classes in the University, when the latter received a wound in the groin, in consequence of which he died next Saturday morning. Four shots were, we understand, exchanged. Mr. Leckie received his wound by the first fire, but did not discover it. After shaking hands with his antagonist, he declared he was mortally wounded, and desired Mr. Romney, the seconds, and the surgeon who attended, to make their escape, which they accordingly did.”

The personal appearance of Mr. Bennet is accurately delineated in the foregoing etching; even so minute a peculiarity as the mole on his right cheek has not been overlooked by the artist. His form was exceedingly spare; and his legs, in particular, were remarkable for their tenuity. Perfectly sensible how niggardly nature had been of her gifts in this respect, Mr. Bennet used to anticipate the observations of his friends by occasional humorous allusions to the subject. One day, having called on his tailor to give a fresh order, he facetiously inquired if he could measure him for a suit of small clothes. “O yes,” rejoined his friend of the iron; “hold up your stick, it will serve the purpose well enough.”<sup>1</sup>

Among other amusements, Mr. Bennet was particularly partial to the sports of the field; and

“ When westlin winds and slaughtering guns  
Brought Autumn’s pleasant weather,”

he annually repaired to the moors with his dog and gun. On the morning of the 10th of October 1805, he left Edinburgh, attired in his “shooting graith,” with the view of enjoying a day’s excursion in the kingdom of Fife. A gentleman, who crossed over with him in the morning at Queensferry, mentions that he had seldom seen him in higher spirits. After passing the ferry, Mr. Bennet proceeded in the direction of Kinghorn, where he had been invited to dine with

<sup>1</sup> There are two portraits of Mr. Bennet painted by Sir Henry Raeburn—one is preserved by his family, and the other is in the possession of his old friend and associate Lord Panmure.

a friend in the evening. Before the hour of dinner arrived, however, he was discovered in a lifeless state in a field near the gentleman's house, with his dog and the fatal instrument of death beside him. The cause of this melancholy accident has never been ascertained.

The residence of Mr. Bennet was, for many years after he commenced business, in the Old Assembly Close. He subsequently removed to that house on a line with, and next to the York Hotel, in Nicolson Street.

Mr. Bennet married Mrs. Scott, the widow of J. Scott, Esq. of Logie. This lady, whose maiden name was Auchterlonny, had a daughter by her first husband, afterwards married to the late General Hope, brother of the Lord President. By Mr. Bennet she had three sons and one daughter, the eldest of whom obtained the rank of Captain in the navy, and married Miss Law,<sup>1</sup> daughter of his father's partner. The second son was in the army, and died in India. The third holds at present (1837) a situation in the War Office. The daughter was married to Mr. Law, W.S.

#### No. CLX.

### THREE OFFICERS OF THE HOPETOUN FENCIBLES.

LORD NAPIER, MAJOR PILMER,

AND

MAJOR CLARKSON.

THE centre figure in the group is the RIGHT HONOURABLE FRANCIS SEVENTH LORD NAPIER, of Merchiston, whose lineal ancestor,<sup>2</sup> John Napier of Merchiston, was the celebrated inventor of logarithms. The subject of our sketch was born at Ipswich in 1758, and succeeded his father in 1785.

At sixteen years of age his lordship entered the army as an ensign in the 31st Regiment, and served in America during the War of Independence, under General Burgoyne. He was one of those who piled arms on the heights of Saratoga in 1777, and was detained a prisoner of war upwards of six months. He was then allowed to return to Britain on parole not to serve in America

<sup>1</sup> This lady died in 1836.

<sup>2</sup> The male representation of the family is vested in Sir William Napier Milliken of Milliken, who enjoys the old Napier baronetcy.





until regularly exchanged, which was effected in 1780. Lord Napier subsequently held commissions in several corps, and had attained the majority of the 4th Regiment, when, in 1789, in consequence of the peace, he sold out and retired from the army.

On the 16th September of the same year, Lord Napier, as Grand Master Mason of Scotland, had the honour of laying the foundation-stone of the College of Edinburgh. The following was the order of the procession :—

“The Lord Provost,<sup>1</sup> Magistrates and Council, in their robes, with the City Regalia carried before them. The Principal<sup>2</sup> and Professors of the University, in their gowns, with the mace carried before them.

The Students, with green laurel in their hats.

A Band of Singers, conducted by Mr. Schetkey.

The different Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons, with their proper insignia, etc.

A Band of Instrumental Music.”

The procession, in which there were many of the nobility and gentry of Scotland, proceeded from the Parliament House, down the High Street, and along the South Bridge. The streets were lined by a party of the 35th Regiment and the City Guard. The procession began to move at half-past twelve, and reached the site of the College at one o’clock.

The Grand Master, standing on the east, with the Substitute on his right hand, and the Grand Wardens on the west, having applied the square and level to the stone, and, after three knocks with the mallet, invoked the blessing of the “Great Architect of the Universe” on the foundation-stone, three cheers were given by the brethren.

The cornucopia and two silver vessels were then brought from the table and delivered—the cornucopia to the Substitute, and the two vessels to the Wardens—and were successively presented to the Grand Master, who, according to an ancient ceremony, poured the corn, the wine, and the oil which they contained on the stone, saying—

“ May the all-bounteous Author of Nature bless this city with abundance of corn, wine, and oil, and with all the necessities, conveniences, and comforts of life; and may the same Almighty power preserve this city from ruin and decay to the latest posterity.”

On this the brethren gave three cheers; and the Grand Master addressed himself to the Lord Provost and Magistrates, and to the Principal, as representing the University, in very eloquent speeches, to which the Lord Provost and the Reverend Principal made suitable replies.

Two crystal bottles, cast on purpose at the Glass-House of Leith, were deposited in the foundation-stone. In one of these were put different coins of the regnal year, previously enveloped in crystal. In the other bottle were deposited seven rolls of vellum, containing a short account of the original foundation and present state of the University. The bottles, being carefully sealed up, were covered with a plate of copper wrapt in block-tin; and upon the under side of the copper were engraven the arms of the city of Edinburgh, of the

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Elder, Esq., of Forneth.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Robertson, the historian.

University, and of the Right Hon. Lord Napier, Grand Master Mason of Scotland. Upon the upper side was a Latin inscription of which the following is a translation :—

By the blessing of Almighty God,  
In the Reign of the Most Munificent Prince  
GEORGE III.,  
The buildings of the University of Edinburgh,  
Being originally very mean,  
And now, after two centuries, almost a ruin,  
The Right Honourable FRANCIS LORD NAPIER,  
Grand Master of the Fraternity of Free-Masons in Scotland,  
Amidst the acclamations  
Of a prodigious concourse of all ranks of people,  
Laid the FOUNDATION-STONE  
Of this new fabric,  
In which a union of elegance with convenience,  
Suitable to the dignity of such a celebrated seat of learning,  
Has been studied :  
On the 16th day of November,  
In the year of our Lord 1789,  
And of the era of Masonry 5789.  
THOMAS ELDER being the Lord Provost of the City ;  
WILLIAM ROBERTSON, the Principal of the University ;  
And ROBERT ADAM, the Architect.  
May the undertaking prosper, and be crowned with success !<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Among the subscriptions towards the fund for rebuilding the College, that of “a Farmer” was the most singular. His letter to the Lord Provost, accompanying the donation, we shall quote, as somewhat curious.

“ My LORD—In my humble retreat I have heard, and with pleasure, of the various improvements which have been made in our metropolis, and are still going forward—that which claims a preference to all others has been reserved for your administration ; and I congratulate you on the appearance that your well-directed exertions promise to obtain a support equal to the approbation they merit.

“ I cannot pretend to emulate the opulent who so liberally have subscribed to rebuild the University ; but I am willing to bestow a little of what I can spare, to testify my approbation of a work so commendable ; and hope that the form in which it is offered may not prove offensive, because it is singular—rather hope that a well-meant example may lead others of my fraternity to an imitation of it.

“ I have heard that the nation, generally esteemed the most polished in Europe, has stript itself of all objects of vanity and luxury, and made offer of them for the service of the state. May I, then, in imitation of an example so patriotic, presume, without offence, to present my mite for promoting your undertaking, in the shape of Two STOTS ?

“ In a neighbouring county, not long ago, the carcass of a bullock was sold at 1s. 1d. per lib., every person being desirous to have a slice of an animal accounted of an extraordinary size. Those I now take the liberty to offer are not possessed of the same merit, but, I believe, they have that of being uncommonly good. As such, I beg to recommend them to lovers of science, and in a special manner to the adepts in the fashionable science of eating, at the approaching season of festivity.

“ Wishing all sort of success and encouragement to the undertaking—prosperity to the great city over which you preside—and happiness to yourself, I take the liberty to subscribe myself, my Lord, your lordship’s most obedient and most humble servant,

A FARMER.

“ P.S.—The person who will hand you this letter will inform your lordship where the two animals are to be found, which will be delivered to your order.”

The stots were disposed of in the Fleshmarket by Deacon Andrew Wilson. They were soon sold off—a great part of them at 1s. 1d. per lb. ; such was the demand by the lovers of science for the classic beef. The whole produce amounted to £34 : 12 : 6.

On the ceremony being finished, three cheers were given, when the procession marched back in reverse order. The number of spectators, it is stated, could not be less than 30,000 ; and, notwithstanding such a vast concourse, the utmost order was observed.

In the evening a sumptuous dinner was given in the Assembly Rooms, by the Lord Provost and Magistrates, at which upwards of three hundred noblemen and gentlemen were present.

Almost immediately after this auspicious event, Lord Napier was presented with the freedom of the city by the Magistrates ; and had the degree of Doctor of Laws conferred upon him, along with the Right Hon. Henry Dundas, then Treasurer of the Navy, by the University.

In 1793, when the Hopetoun Fencibles were embodied, Lord Napier was appointed Lieut.-Colonel of the corps, and continued to hold the commission until the regiment was disbanded in 1799. At the general election in 1796 he was chosen one of the Representative Peers of Scotland ; and, on subsequent occasions, was again repeatedly returned. His lordship was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of the county of Selkirk in 1797 ; and, in 1802, was nominated Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly. This office he continued annually to hold for nearly twenty years. On the 10th of November 1803, Lord Napier was elected a member of the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge ; and, on the 3d of January 1805, he was unanimously chosen President of that Society, in the room of the Earl of Leven and Melville, whose time for being in office had expired. He was also a member of the Board of Trustees for the Encouragement of Scottish Manufactures and the Fisheries.

Lord Napier was not distinguished in Parliament as an orator or statesman ; but there are yet many who remember the uncompromising integrity and dignity with which he supported the representative character of his order. The following correspondence, between the Secretary of State for the Home Department and his lordship, immediately prior to the general election in 1806, affords the most honourable testimony to the independence of his conduct :—

“ PRIVATE.

“ *Whitehall, 18th October 1806.*

“ MY DEAR LORD—Though it is not improbable that the reports of a dissolution of Parliament may have reached your lordship before this letter, I thought it might not be uninteresting to you to learn the truth of them from a more authentic source than the newspapers ; and I therefore trouble you with this, to inform you that Parliament will certainly be dissolved in the course of a few days. I hope I am not taking too great a liberty if, at the same time, I express my earnest wishes that your lordship may be found among the supporters of the friends of Government, on the occasion of the election of Representative Peers for Scotland.—I have the honour to be, with great truth and regard,  
your lordship’s very obedient humble servant,

SPENCER.

“ LORD NAPIER, etc. etc. etc.”

“ *Edinburgh, 21st October 1806.*

“ MY DEAR LORD—I have this day had the honour of receiving your lordship’s letter of the 18th instant ; and am very sensible of your attention, and the trouble you have had the goodness to take in giving me information of the certainty of an immediate dissolution of Parliament. Having on several occasions experienced the good will of the Peers of Scotland, I feel it my duty again to offer

myself to their notice. In forming my list for voting at the general election, I consider myself bound, in honour and gratitude, to give my support to those lords who have uniformly befriended me, in preference to new candidates who may now come forward, and from whom I have hitherto received no countenance. Should the arrangement I may ultimately make for the disposal of my votes not accord with your lordship's wishes, I trust you will do me the justice to believe that I am not actuated by factious motives, nor by any want of respect for your lordship.—I have the honour to be, my dear Lord, your lordship's most obedient humble servant,

NAPIER.

“The Right Hon. EARL SPENCER, etc. etc. etc.”

“Whitehall, 27th October 1806.

“MY DEAR LORD—I have had the honour of your letter of the 21st instant, and am much concerned at the contents of it, as I am very apprehensive that the new candidates who intend to offer themselves for the Representation of the Scotch Peerage, and are supporters of Government, will not be disposed to give their support unless they can expect support in return.—I have the honour to be, my dear Lord, your lordship's very obedient humble servant,

SPENCER.

“LORD NAPIER.”

“Edinburgh, 30th October 1806.

“MY DEAR LORD—I have this moment had the honour of receiving your lordship's letter of the 27th instant. I certainly cannot expect the votes of candidates from whom I may withhold my support; but I trust that such as I may be ready to change votes with will be equally inclined to do so with me.—I have the honour to be, my dear Lord, your lordship's most obedient humble servant,

NAPIER.

“The Right Hon. EARL SPENCER, etc. etc. etc.”

Lord Napier was not undersized, though he appears rather diminutive between his gigantic companions in the Print; and a certain air of nobility set off a figure of goodly proportions. He was remarkable for an eagle-eye; and, we must add an eagle-nose, which Kay has rendered perhaps rather prominent, by placing the other features too much in abeyance; yet the characteristic expression of the portrait is so marked as not to be mistaken. His lordship is represented in his uniform as Colonel of the Hopetoun Fencibles. When not in regimentals he generally dressed plainly, but with the nicest attention to propriety, although in his day the garb of gentlemen was of the most gaudy description—consisting very frequently of a crimson or purple coat, green plush vest, black breeches, and white stockings.

The anecdote related in Lockhart's *Life of Scott*, as illustrative of Lord Napier's finical taste, is altogether apocryphal.<sup>1</sup> No one who knew his lordship could

<sup>1</sup> “Lord and Lady Napier had arrived at Castlemilk (in Lanarkshire), with the intention of staying a week; but next morning it was announced that a circumstance had occurred which rendered it indispensable for them to return without delay to their own seat in Selkirkshire. It was impossible for Lady Stewart to extract any further explanation at the moment, but it turned out afterwards that Lord Napier's valet had committed the grievous mistake of packing up a set of neckcloths which did not correspond, *in point of date*, with the shirts they accompanied!”

[That the above ridiculous story was current as a jest, in some circles, is true, but it had no foundation in fact. Our informant, whose authority is not to be doubted, is “perfectly positive” Lord and Lady Napier never were at Castlemilk in their lives, and almost as positive they were not acquainted with Lady Stewart.]

The circumstance alluded to, but not fully explained, by Mr. Lockhart, of Lord Napier having been the person who induced Sir Walter Scott to reside for some period of the year within the bounds of his sheriffdom of Selkirkshire, was alike honourable to the Lord-Lieutenant, and to the illustrious Sheriff himself, who, as his biographer frankly admits, feeling that Lord Napier was clearly in the right, cheerfully adopted the suggestion, and planted his immortal staff where it became the *præsidium* at once, and the *dulee decus* of the Forest; and Lord Napier may be pardoned for having been, in those times of threatened invasion, as enthusiastic in his duties of Lord-Lieutenant as was the Sheriff in those of a volunteer cavalry officer.]

believe him guilty of such an absurdity; for, with all his precision in matters of duty, and his sensitive notions of etiquette, he entertained a much greater dread of rendering himself unbecomingly conspicuous, than of any ridicule that could possibly arise from an oversight in the punctilio of dress.

In company his lordship was far from reserved. He was particularly kind and attentive to such young persons as appeared bashful; and, that they might feel more at ease, lost no opportunity of engaging them in conversation.

Lord Napier married Maria-Margaret, eldest daughter of Lieut-General Sir William Clavering, K.B. By this marriage his lordship had nine children. He died in 1823, and was succeeded by his eldest son, William-John eighth Lord Napier<sup>1</sup>—a spirited and benevolent nobleman, long eminent in the south of Scotland as an improver in store-farming, and as a benefactor of the Forest. He died in his forty-eighth year, at Macao, in China, October 11, 1834, of a lingering fever, brought on by anxiety in the performance of a high official duty, as Chief Superintendent of British Trade in that empire, and which was increased by the harsh treatment he received from the Chinese government.

The figure to the right of Lord Napier is an excellent likeness of old MAJOR PILMER. He was a native of Fifeshire, and commenced his military life as an ensign in the 21st Regiment of Foot. He had seen a great deal of service, and served along with Lord Napier during the war in America, where he was wounded. He retired from the army on the half-pay of a Captain, and resided in the neighbourhood of Cupar-Fife, where he had at one period a small estate; but which, it is believed, was entirely dissipated while he was abroad. His appointment in the Hopetoun Fencibles, by which his half-pay was relinquished for the full pay of a Major, was obtained through the influence of Lord Napier.

There was something rather remarkable in the appearance of Old Pilmer. His regimentals were none of the newest, and his boots—which the artist has hit off with great precision—were of a curious and antique description. They had been so often mended and re-mended, that it is questionable whether, like Sir John Cutler's stockings, any portion of the original remained. While stationed at Aberdeen, along with the Rutland Fencible Cavalry, the officers of that corps used to amuse themselves occasionally at the expense of Major Pilmer and his boots; and Pilmer at last became a standard and expressive appellation amongst them. “ You have got your *Pilmers* on to-day ! ” was a common remark to any one whose boots were a little the worse for wear.

The Major, who was a worthy old soldier, relished his bottle and a joke at table, and did not feel at all out of humour at the allusions to his *Pilmers*.

The third figure represents MAJOR CLARKSON, another veteran. He at one time possessed the estate of Blackburn, in Linlithgowshire. He entered

<sup>1</sup> Captain Charles Napier, R.N., who lately distinguished himself in the service of the Queen of Portugal, and the late Lord Napier were cousins.

the army at an early period, and was present at the siege of Havannah in 1762. In 1803, shortly after the Fencible regiments were disbanded, Major Clarkson obtained the majority of the Berwickshire Militia, which commission he held till his death, which took place in 1811 or 1812. His daughter, an only child, married Lieutenant Norton of the Royals; and the wife of Mr. Sinclair, the vocalist, is the offspring of that marriage.<sup>1</sup>

## No. CLXI.

## MR. JOHN ADAMS,

## MASTER OF THE ROYAL RIDING MENAGE.

MR. ADAMS, who is here represented in the uniform of the Royal Mid-Lothian Volunteer Cavalry, originally belonged to the 16th Light Dragoons, of which regiment he was Quartermaster. He was subsequently a Lieutenant of the Cinque Port Light Dragoons, commanded by the Earl of Liverpool, then Colonel Jenkinson; which corps was embodied in 1794, and had their colours presented, in a field before Walmer Castle, the seat of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, by Lord Viscount Melville, then Mr. Secretary Dundas.

In 1797 Mr. Adams was brought to Edinburgh for the purpose of drilling and organising the Mid-Lothian Cavalry, then about to be formed; and to which regiment he was appointed adjutant. The duties of this situation he discharged to the entire satisfaction of that highly respectable corps; and when old Tremamondo retired from the Riding-School,<sup>2</sup> he was chosen his successor.

Mr. Adams did not long enjoy the Mastership. He died at the premature age of forty-six, on the 18th of May 1804. His remains were interred in the Greyfriars Churchyard with military honours—a company of the Edinburgh Volunteers forming the firing party.

Adams was succeeded by Colonel Letham, whose son, Captain Letham, afterwards held the appointment.

<sup>1</sup> A daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair was married, 23d June 1837, to Mr. Forrest, the celebrated American tragedian.

<sup>2</sup> The Riding-School was established in 1763, and Mr. Angelo was the first master.—In a periodical work of that year we find the following notice of the institution:—“A branch of education, not formerly taught in this country, is lately established at Edinburgh—horsemanship, or the art of riding. For the purpose, a menage is erected by subscription; and, at a general meeting, held 12th December, the ordinary directors having reported that the building of the Riding-School and stables was nearly finished, and that a sufficient number of horses, both foreign and English, was provided, and several of them properly dressed by Mr. Angelo, it was agreed that the menage should be opened for the reception of scholars on the first Monday of January. Each scholar pays four guineas the first month, and two guineas every other month; sixteen teaching days in the month. Gentlemen, whose business will not allow them to attend regularly, get sixteen tickets for a month, and pay three guineas for the first month, and two pounds six shillings for every other month.”

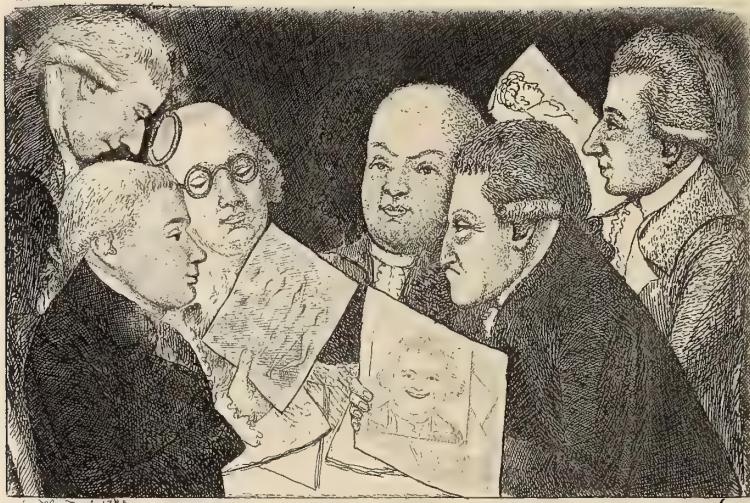


*Dedicated to the Royal Edin<sup>t</sup> Light Dragoons.*

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CONNOISSEURS

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## No. CLXII.

MR. WILLIAM SCOTT,

MR. JAMES SIBBALD, GEORGE FAIRHOLME, ESQ.,

AND

JAMES KERR, ESQ.

THE first figure in this group of amateurs is MR. WILLIAM SCOTT, plumber, who is represented looking through his glass at a print of the "Three Graces."

Mr. Scott's ancestors were considerable landed proprietors in the county of Northumberland, in England. His father, who had been bred a plumber—a business then little known in Scotland—settled in Edinburgh early in the eighteenth century, where the subject of our sketch was born in 1739. He received a regular academical education, and was intended for the army; but, in consequence of greatly extended business, and his father having fallen into a delicate state of health, he was induced to abandon his views of a military life.

Mr. Scott was twice married, and had a family by each marriage. He retired from business many years before his death. He was a man of domestic habits; and, having a taste for the arts, amused himself in collecting engravings, of which he had an extensive and valuable collection, embracing many productions of the ancient masters.<sup>1</sup> He had also a well-selected library. Being a member of Mary's Chapel, he for some time held the office of Treasurer, and twice represented that incorporation as Deacon in the Town Council of Edinburgh. He was a member of the Kirk Session of Haddo's Hole, now called the New North Church, for nearly half a century. He was Commandant of the Lieutenants of the Train Band, one of the Majors of the Edinburgh Defensive Band, and a member of the First Regiment of Royal Edinburgh Volunteers. He died in 1816.

The next figure in the group is MR. JAMES SIBBALD, bookseller, holding in his hand the print of the "Three Graces," which he is contemplating apparently with much satisfaction.

<sup>1</sup> It is said Mr. Scott's propensity for collecting arose from his having learned that an immense sum had been got at the sale of a nobleman's paintings and engravings. It immediately occurred to him that a large sum might be realised for his family in a similar manner. Some years prior to his death, he disposed of his collection of engravings to Mr. Vernon, a well-known picture-dealer then resident in Edinburgh, who, by extensive purchases, greatly increased it both as to extent and value, until it surpassed anything of the kind that has been seen in this country. The collection, however, was subsequently taken to England, and disposed of by public auction.

Mr. Sibbald was the son of a farmer at Whitelaw, in Roxburghshire, where he was born about 1747. He received his education at the grammar-school of Selkirk. Although fond of literary amusements, he does not seem to have contemplated following any other profession than that of his father. Accordingly, his first attempt to establish himself in the world was by becoming a lessee of the farm of Newton, which he held from Sir Walter Elliot of Stobbs. Here he carried on the business of farming for several years, relieving the monotony of rustic life by literary and scientific pursuits. In May 1779, however, finding the agricultural interest considerably depressed, he sold off his stock, gave up his lease, and, without any fixed purpose, repaired to Edinburgh with little more than a hundred pounds in his pocket.

Having some acquaintance with Mr. Charles Elliot, an eminent and enterprising bookseller, he engaged for a short time as his shopman; and, in about a year afterwards, bought the circulating library which had originally belonged to Allan Ramsay the poet.<sup>1</sup> He then opened a bookseller's shop in the Parliament Square, where, by a degree of enterprise surpassing his contemporaries, he soon obtained distinction. He was the first to introduce the better order of engravings into Edinburgh, many of which were coloured to resemble paintings. They were considered as altogether of foreign or English manufacture, and as such were extensively purchased; but, having been one day detected in the act of colouring them himself, from that unlucky period his business in this line diminished.

In 1783, Sibbald commenced the Edinburgh Magazine,<sup>2</sup> which was exceedingly well received, and in which, as editor and principal contributor, he displayed much talent and great research. Anxious to devote his attention exclusively to literary pursuits, he formed an arrangement in 1791 with two young men, Lawrie and Symington, by which they were to have his stock and business on payment of an annual sum. Mr. Sibbald then entered into a newspaper speculation, the "Edinburgh Herald," which he conducted; but it did not continue for any length of time. He next went to London,<sup>3</sup> where he resided

<sup>1</sup> It was from this library, originally established by the author of the "Gentle Shepherd," and we believe the oldest institution of the kind in the kingdom, that Sir Walter Scott, according to his own statement, read in his younger years with such avidity. The collection latterly contained above thirty thousand volumes. It was called the Edinburgh Circulating Library; but the selection of books was very superior to what are usually to be met with in collections of that description. Almost all the eminent men of last century who studied in Edinburgh, as well as many of a succeeding period (some of whom filled the first offices in the state), were readers of this library. After the death of Mr. Sibbald, it was purchased, and enlarged, by Mr. Alexander Mackay—of Blackcastle in Edinburghshire—who was then a bookseller in the High Street; and who, upon retiring from business about the year 1832, and not finding a purchaser for the whole, sold it off by public auction.

<sup>2</sup> To this work Lord Hailes was a contributor. The Magazine was subsequently conducted by Dr. Robert Anderson, author of the Lives of the Poets, and published by Mr. Mackay.

<sup>3</sup> While in London his Scottish relations altogether lost sight of him; they neither knew where he lived, nor how he lived. At length his brother William, a merchant in Leith, made particular inquiry into these circumstances by a letter, which he sent through such a channel as to be sure of reaching him. The answer was comprised in the following words:—"My lodging is in Soho, and my business is so-so."

for a number of years, and produced a work, entitled "Record of the Public Ministry of Jesus Christ," which was published at Edinburgh in 1798.

Mr. Sibbald again returned to Edinburgh, where, in 1797, he brought out a musical publication, entitled "The Vocal Magazine." In a year or two afterwards the bookselling stock devolved into his own hands, and he continued to carry on business as a bookseller until his death. His next work, published in 1802, and by which he is best known, was a selection from the early Scottish poets, entitled "A Chronicle of Scottish Poetry, with a Glossary of the Scottish Language"—a work of taste and erudition, and a valuable accession to Scottish literature.

Mr. Sibbald died at his lodgings in Leith Walk, at the age of fifty-six, in April 1803. "He was a man of eccentric but amiable character. He belonged to a great number of social clubs; and was beloved by so many of his associates in those fraternities, that for some years after his death they celebrated his birth-day by a social meeting."

The third figure, with a print of Martin the auctioneer in his hand, is GEORGE FAIRHOLME, Esq. of Greenhill, near Edinburgh, and of Greenknow, in Berwickshire. This gentleman, together with his younger brother William (of Chapel, in Berwickshire), had long resided in Holland as eminent bankers, where they realised a very considerable fortune; and, on their return to their native country, they became extensive shareholders in the Bank of Scotland, and in other public securities.

While in Holland, Mr. Fairholme had an opportunity of cultivating a strong natural taste for the fine arts;<sup>1</sup> and was subsequently well known as a keen and judicious collector of pictures and rare works of art. His collection of the imitable etchings of Rembrandt was nearly complete; and these, together with his cabinet of pictures, are now the property of his nephew, Adam Fairholme, Esq. of Chapel.

Mr. Fairholme died on the 1st February 1800, aged seventy; and was interred in the family burying-place at Greenhill—which estate now belongs to Sir John Stuart Forbes, Bart. of Pitsligo.

The fourth figure, behind Mr. Fairholme, represents JAMES KERR, Esq. of Blackshiels. His father, Alexander Kerr, having left Scotland to reside at Bordeaux, as a wine-merchant, he was brought up and educated along with his cousins, the Tytlers of Woodhouselee;<sup>2</sup> and, at a proper age, was bound apprentice in the banking establishment of Sir William Forbes and Co. After the expiry of his indenture, having succeeded to an ample fortune by the death of his father, Mr. Kerr went abroad on his travels, and remained a considerable

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Fairholme's taste for the fine arts has descended to his nephew, George Fairholme, Esq., now of Greenknow, who, during repeated visits to Italy, has acquired a small but extremely choice cabinet of pictures of the highest class, together with a valuable collection of original drawings by the old masters.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Alexander Kerr married Miss Craig of Dalnair, sister of Mrs. Tytler of Woodhouselee. The last of the Dalnair family was Sir James Craig, Governor-General of British North America.

time on the Continent. He then returned to Edinburgh, where he afterwards continued to reside, and was well known for his taste in the fine arts. He was a member of the CATCH-CLUB—one of the oldest and most celebrated associations of musical amateurs in Edinburgh—and was a constant attendant of the concerts in *St. Cecilia's Hall* in the Cowgate, which were then extensively patronised by all the “beauty and fashion” of the Scottish metropolis. Mr. Kerr was an excellent flute-player; and he frequently performed on that instrument at the entertainments given by the Club.

Shortly after his return from the Continent, he exerted himself greatly in forming the Leith Bank, of which, on its institution in 1801, he was appointed Manager. It was pretty generally surmised that, from his previous habits, the burden of superintendence would devolve on some person under him. In this, however, the public were greatly mistaken. Mr. Kerr devoted his time and attention exclusively to the business of the establishment; and, by his prudence and sagacity, managed its affairs to the greatest advantage.<sup>1</sup>

This rather surprising change in Mr. Kerr, who had formerly been as indifferent about money matters as he now appeared cautious and even economical, was explained at the time in the following way:—Among other fashionable amusements, he had sometimes indulged in cards; and, on one occasion, found himself so deeply involved, by a series of ill-luck, that he may be said to have been reduced to his last shilling. In this plight he resolved to make one desperate attempt to regain his fortune. He accordingly continued to play as if nothing had befallen him, and was so fortunate, by a single game, as to avert the entire ruin which inevitably appeared to await him. Deeply impressed with the hazard he had run, it is said he rose up, and, throwing the cards on the table, declared he would never again take one of them in his hand; and it is believed, he kept his word.

Mr. Kerr resided at one period in Shoemaker's Close, Canongate, and latterly in No. 8 Queen Street. He died at Bath on the 9th December 1820.

The two remaining figures in the group of *Connoisseurs* are imaginary.

### No. CLXIII.

#### REV. WILLIAM PAUL,

ONE OF THE MINISTERS OF THE WEST CHURCH.

THE REV. WILLIAM PAUL was born in Glasgow in 1754, and received his education at the University of that city. After the ordinary course of literary and philosophic study, he took the degree of Master of Arts; and, having

<sup>1</sup> The sensation caused by one of Mr. Kerr's sons having on the 22d April 1842 advertised that he had ceased (in 1831) to be a partner in the bank, led to a run on the bank, which suspended payment on the 25th of the same month.





entered as a student at the Divinity Hall, obtained license as a preacher from the Presbytery of Cupar-Fife, some time, it is understood, in the year 1776. His sermons attracted general notice, and gained him the esteem of many of the leading men of the Church. In 1777, he became assistant to the late Mr. Gibson of St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh; and, in 1780, he was presented by the Marquis of Lothian to the Church of Newbattle, within the Presbytery of Dalkeith. In that year he married Susan, only daughter of Sir William Moncreiff, and sister to the late Sir Henry Moncreiff Wellwood, Bart., by whom he had a numerous family.<sup>1</sup> He remained at Newbattle for six years, and his memory was long cherished with affectionate regard by his old parishioners.

In 1786 Mr. Paul, on a recommendation from the heritors of the parish of St. Cuthbert's to the late Lord Melville, received a presentation from the Crown to be one of the ministers of that parish, in the room of his late friend Mr. Gibson; and by this appointment he became the colleague of his brother-in-law, Sir Henry Moncreiff. United by close ties of relationship, they were at the same time men of a congenial spirit, and probably no church in Scotland, where there was a collegiate charge, had two more able men as its spiritual guardians.

In 1794 he was appointed, by his late Majesty George III. one of his Chaplains for Scotland. He continued to discharge the arduous duties attendant upon his charge with unwearied assiduity till the period of his death, which happened on the 27th October 1802.

The manner of Mr. Paul in the pulpit was attractive and commanding—persuasive, and not unfrequently pathetic or forcible, as the occasion required. While the young and the diffident, in the course of his parochial visitations, were encouraged and brought forward, those who were of a contrary character met with severe rebuke. From such a man, indeed, even a look was sufficient. On one occasion, a young lady of respectability in the parish, and of great personal attractions, from thoughtless levity stood up in church during sermon in the front of the gallery, exhibiting a beautifully formed arm, bare almost to the shoulder, which attracted the eyes of the entire congregation towards her. The reverend clergyman, who knew her and her family well, was disturbed. Although unwilling to hurt her feelings, he was determined to repress so unbecoming an exhibition. Turning to the place where she stood, and pausing in his discourse, he fixed on her for a few moments an eye so full of reproof that the lady's vanity gave way under his gaze, and she sat down abashed in her seat.

With the manners of a perfect gentleman, Mr. Paul possessed an independence of spirit by no means suited to the meridian of a court. At one of the elections of the Scottish Peers in Holyrood House, about the close of last

<sup>1</sup> These were his son Robert, manager of the Commercial Bank of Scotland; John, one of the ministers of the West Church; William, chief partner of the firm of Paul, M'Kenzie, and Moncrieff, accountants in Edinburgh; and Henry, manager of the City of Glasgow Bank, Glasgow.

century, it was his turn, along with another of the Royal Chaplains, to officiate. The latter opened the proceedings with a prayer most elaborately composed for the occasion. His eloquence attracted notice, and expectation was excited in regard to the prayer with which the proceedings were to be terminated, and which fell to be offered by the subject of this sketch, when the reverend gentleman stood up, and rightly judging that neither the circumstances nor the services called for anything but the fewest and simplest words, with great solemnity repeated the *Lord's Prayer*, to the no small surprise of the audience, some of whom had the bad taste to term it unsuitable to the occasion.

The death perhaps of no clergyman ever produced a greater sensation in the neighbourhood where it occurred. It was announced by bills hawked about the streets of Edinburgh; and the presence of thousands of persons at the funeral attested the veneration in which their pastor was held. Only one of Mr. Paul's sermons was ever published, although some of them have since appeared in the periodical publications of the day. His venerable widow survived him till 21st November 1828.

This Print was executed by the artist from recollection, after the reverend gentleman's death.

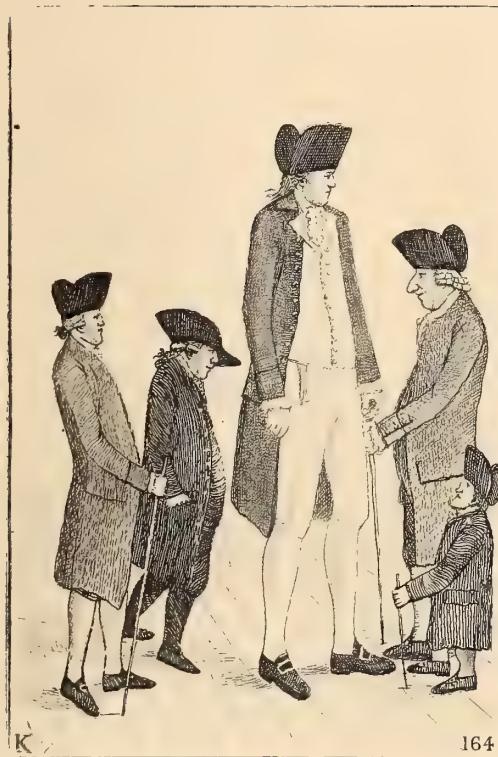
No. CLXIV.

BYRNE, THE IRISH GIANT,  
MR. WATSON, MR. M'GOWAN, MR. FAIRHOLME,  
AND  
GEORDIE CRANSTOUN.

THIS Print, which is one of the early productions of the artist, represents the Giant in conversation with Mr. Watson, while Mr. M'Gowan, Mr. Fairholme, and Geordie Cranstoun are listening very attentively to what is going on.

Some account of MR. FAIRHOLME, the first figure to the left, will be found in our notice of "The Connoisseurs." The likeness here afforded may not be so accurate or distinct in the outlines as the one in the group alluded to; yet the person and attitude are very characteristic of the upright and somewhat pompous figure of the original.

The next figure presents an equally graphic portraiture of MR. JOHN M'GOWAN, who lived for many years in the Luckenbooths, where he occupied the second and third flats above Creech the bookseller's shop. He latterly removed to a house in Princes Street, between Castle and Charlotte Streets, where he died.



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"Johnnie M'Gowan," as he was familiarly called, was well known, and generally esteemed as a good-natured, inoffensive sort of man, with a considerable penchant for talking on subjects not usually considered of much moment. He was fond of antiquarian pursuits, and possessed a good library, besides a pretty extensive private museum of curiosities and antiquities. He was the correspondent of Buffon, to whom he sent a yearly present of an Edinburgh Almanack.

He was famed for his conviviality and skill in the manufacture of rum-punch—qualifications which not unfrequently called him to the head of the table, where he uniformly displayed a great degree of scientific nicety in preparing the flowing bowl.

Johnnie could afford ample leisure for indulgence, whether in the gratification of his taste for antiquarian lore, or of rum-punch. He lived a bachelor; and was, moreover, in easy circumstances, following the profession of a writer rather for recreation than from necessity. He died in 1805. After his death his books and curiosities were sold; and many of the articles brought large prices. He was a member of the Society of Antiquaries. Amongst other rare articles in his possession was an imperfect copy of the "Complaynt of Scotland"<sup>1</sup>—of which no perfect copy is known.

BYRNE, the centre figure, as well as little GEORDIE CRANSTOUN, have been elsewhere noticed.

The remaining individual of the group, ALEXANDER WATSON, Esq. of Glenturkie, Fifeshire, was a Writer to the Signet, and a gentleman of much respectability—a jolly, social, good-fellow of the old school. He resided in Craig's Close, first stair, left hand, immediately above where the Caledonian Mercury Office now is. At the same period (1780), Lady Betty Anstruther, Mr. M'Leod Bannatyne (afterwards Lord Bannatyne), and Mr. Smellie, printer, occupied the fourth and fifth stories. Beside his business as a W.S., which was considerable, Mr. Watson held a situation in the Chancery Office. He lived and died a bachelor.

<sup>1</sup> This curious work is referred to by Jonathan Oldbuck, in the imitable novel of the *Antiquary*; and he recounts, with the true *gusto* of a book-collector, the devices he was obliged to have recourse to in order to get possession of it. A reprint, with a singularly valuable introduction by Dr. Leyden, was published in 1801, 8vo.

## No. CLXV.

ALLAN MACDOUGALL, ESQ. OF GLENLOCHAN,  
ALEXANDER WATSON, ESQ. OF GLENTURKIE,  
AND  
COLQUHOUN GRANT, ESQ.

THESE gentlemen were intimate friends, and of one profession—Writers to the Signet. They are here represented in the prosecution of one of their many walks in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, where, at some snug house of entertainment, they were regularly, at least once a week, in the habit of enjoying a social dinner together.

ALLAN MACDOUGALL—the first of the trio—possessed the estate of Glenlochan, in Argyleshire. Philipsfield, near Leith, now belonging to a gentleman of the name of Boyd, was also his property. He resided at one period at the Nether Bow, and latterly in Tweeddale's Court. He married a sister of the late Lord Tweeddale, but had no family. Mr. Macdougall enjoyed an excellent business, and was Agent for the Commissioners of the Annexed Estates of Scotland. He was some time in partnership with Mr. George Andrew, who held the appointment of Clerk to the Pipe, in conjunction with Alexander Murray, afterwards Lord Henderland.

The centre figure, ALEXANDER WATSON of Glenturkie, has already been noticed in the preceding Print.

COLQUHOUN GRANT (the last and most prominent person of the group) and Mr. Watson were inseparable companions. Both gentlemen lived in “single blessedness;” and, having few attractions at home, they were in the habit of dining daily together in the house of Mr. Thomas Sommers, vintner, Jackson's Close. There they were furnished with a plain warm dinner at the moderate charge of “twa placks apiece;” and so very frugal were they, that half a bottle of claret betwixt them—and no more—was their stated allowance. In those days there were no pint bottles, consequently they were under the necessity of corking up the remaining portion of liquor for next day's repast. These were what they called their “business *déjeunés*.” Their dinners in the country were of a different description; and the glass was permitted to circulate freely.





Colquhoun Grant, whose father possessed the farm of Burnside, on the estate of Castle Grant, in Inverness-shire, was, in his early years, a devoted adherent of the house of Stuart. He joined the army of the Chevalier on its way towards the Lowlands; and, on approaching Edinburgh, was one of those detached to force an entrance into the city.<sup>1</sup> The party, which consisted of nine hundred men, advanced before daylight, and arrived undiscovered at the Nether Bow. They had with them several barrels of gunpowder, for the purpose of blowing up the gate, but were saved this alternative by a carriage passing out at the moment of their arrival, when the Highlanders, rushing in, seized the sentinels, and at once obtained possession of the town. It is told of Colquhoun Grant, as an instance of the spirit by which he was animated, that he pursued some of the guard to the very walls of the Castle, where they had just time to close the outer gate, into which he struck his dirk, leaving it there as a mark of triumph and defiance.<sup>2</sup>

At the affair of Prestonpans, Mr. Grant distinguished himself. Followed by a small party of about twenty-eight Highlanders, armed with the broad-sword only, he routed a body of dragoons, and took two pieces of ordnance. For this signal instance of intrepidity, as well as for his former conduct, he was publicly thanked by the Prince, at the first levee held at Holyrood House, who at the same time presented him with a small *profile cast of himself*,<sup>3</sup> as a

<sup>1</sup> He is generally supposed to have been the "Highland recruit," by whom, as is told in our notice of Lord Gardenstone, that gentleman and another volunteer were taken prisoners at Musselburgh Bridge, where they had gone into a well-known haunt to regale themselves with sherry and oysters.

<sup>2</sup> The dirk and other relics of Colquhoun Grant are still preserved by his nephew, Captain Gregory Grant, R.N., who is now in possession of Burnside.

<sup>3</sup> We have seen this interesting relic of the young Chevalier. It is now in the hands of Lieutenant-General Ainslie—author of an elaborate and beautiful work on the French coins of English sovereigns—to whom it was presented by his friend Donald Maclean, Esq., W.S., formerly of Drimnin, and son-in-law to the subject of our sketch. The grandfather of Mr. Maclean was also "out in the forty-five," and fell, along with two of his sons, at the battle of Culloden, where he headed five hundred of the clan. In connection with Mr. Maclean's father, who likewise fought at Culloden, and was wounded by a ball in the neck, an anecdote is told of William the Fourth. The latter was a midshipman on board the *Thesby*, twenty-eight guns, commanded by Captain Hawkins. Being on the coast, he landed with a pleasure party near to where Mr. Maclean resided, by whom they were hospitably received. William, who was young, and of a flippant manner, exclaimed—"You are all rebels here!" Maclean replied,—“No, please your Royal Highness; I did fight for our rightful prince; but as *that* family of Stuarts, who sat upon the throne, is gone, and George the Third, your Royal father, is now the nearest heir, I can safely declare that the King has not more loyal subjects than the Jacobites of Scotland.” Captain Hawkins observed, “I am aware that this fact is known to your Royal father, who is fully sensible that he has not more devoted or loyal subjects than the old Jacobites of Scotland, who fought against him!” The same spirit of gallant loyalty which animated the Macleans in the cause of Prince Charles Edward in 1745 was manifested, though on a different field, and in another manner, by Mr. Donald Maclean in 1794. We allude to the democratic riots in the theatre during that year, some notice of which occurs in No. CXLI. It appears that the success of the loyalists on these occasions was mainly owing to the resolute conduct of Maclean, who had only been settled in Edinburgh a short time previously. The disturbances were principally instigated by American and Irish students—a party of whom, on the first night of the affair, remained covered in the pit during the performance of the King's anthem. Mr. Maclean, who was seated in the boxes, leaped down into the pit, and going up into the party, politely requested them as gentlemen to conform to the usual mark of respect shown to his Majesty. “By J—s, we won’t!” was the ungracious reply. The blood of Maclean boiled with indignation. “By J—s, you

mark of personal esteem, and to denote the high opinion entertained of his gallant conduct.

Mr. Grant, who was a very handsome, well-made man, was selected as one of the Prince's Life-guards, commanded by Lord Elcho. The dress of the guards was blue, faced with red, and scarlet waistcoats, with gold lace. The equipment and appearance of this body are alluded to in a letter from Derby, where the Pretender's army arrived on the 4th December 1745, on their intended march to London, but from which a counter-movement in the direction of Scotland was commenced next morning. The letter is by an eye-witness, who says:—

"On Wednesday, about eleven o'clock, two of the Rebel's vanguard entered this town, inquiring for the Magistrates, and demanding billets for nine hundred men or more. A short while after, the vanguard rode into the town, consisting of about thirty men, clothed in blue, faced with red, and scarlet waistcoats, with gold-lace; and, being likely men, made a good appearance. They were drawn up in the market-place, and sat on horseback two or three hours. At the same time the bells were rung, and several bonfires made, to prevent any resentment from them that might ensue on our showing a dislike to their coming among us. About three afternoon, Lord Elcho, with the Life-guards, and many of their chiefs, arrived on horseback, to the number of about a hundred and fifty, most of them clothed as above. These made a fine show, being the flower of the army. Soon after, their main body marched into town, in tolerable order, six or eight abreast, with about eight standards, most of them white flags and a red cross, their bagpipes playing as they marched. \* \* \* \* \* Their Prince did not arrive till the dusk of the evening. He walked on foot, attended by a great body of his men, who conducted him to his lodgings, the Lord Exeter's, where he had guards placed all around the house. Every house almost by this time was pretty well filled; but they continued driving in till ten or eleven at night, and we thought we never should have seen the last of them. The Dukes of Athol and Perth, the Lords Pitsligo, Nairn, Elcho, and George Murray, old Gordon of Glenbucket, and their other chiefs and great officers, Lady Ogilvie, and Lady Murray, were lodged at the best gentlemen's houses. Many common ordinary houses, both public and private, had forty or fifty men each, and some gentlemen near a hundred. At their coming in they were generally treated with bread, cheese, beer, and ale, whilst all hands were aloft getting their suppers ready. After supper, being weary with their long march, they went to rest, most upon straw, others in beds."

Mr. Grant continued with the Prince's army till its overthrow at Culloden, when he fled to his native hills, where, for a time, he found shelter. As the search for those who "had been out" became less vigorous, he ventured to take up his residence at his father's house, where he once very narrowly escaped apprehension. One of the ploughmen being in the field, observed a party of military at a short distance; but, conscious that he was seen by them, he was at a loss how to get intelligence conveyed to the house; for had either he or his boy left the plough and gone home, the circumstance would have excited the suspicion of the soldiers. He therefore adopted the expedient of driving home, with oxen and plough, as if his work had been completed, and instantly gave notice of the danger. Colquhoun made his escape to a neighbouring hill, where, concealed in a hollow, he safely witnessed the arrival and departure of his foes.

will!" he exclaimed, at the same moment dealing the democrat a blow that levelled him with the floor. The row instantly became general; but by the prowess of Maclean and several other spirited gentlemen the loyalists were soon victorious. Mr. Maclean, who is a thorough Highlander, and a Jacobite in sentiment, has been for many years Solicitor of Excise; and, having been long in extensive business, may be said in a great measure to have repaired the broken fortunes of his family. He now possesses an estate in Argyleshire.

When all danger had at last happily passed away, Mr. Grant settled in Edinburgh as a Writer to the Signet, and succeeded well in business. He knew not only how to make money, but how to take care of it, and ultimately amassed a very considerable fortune. As illustrative of his character and the general wariness of his habits of business, we quote the following story from the *Edinburgh Literary Journal* :—

"Mr. Ross of Pitcalnie, representative of the ancient and noble family of Ross,<sup>1</sup> had, like Colquhoun Grant, been out-in the forty-five, and consequently lived on terms of intimate friendship with that gentleman. Pitcalnie, however, had rather devoted himself to the dissipation than the acquisition of a fortune ; and, while Mr. Grant lived as a wealthy writer, he enjoyed little better than the character of a broken laird. This unfortunate Jacobite was one day in great distress for want of the sum of forty pounds, which he could not prevail upon any of his friends to lend him, all of them being aware of his execrable character as a debtor. At length he informed some of his companions that he believed he should get what he wanted from Colquhoun Grant ; and he instantly proposed to make the attempt. All who heard him scoffed at the idea of his squeezing a subsidy from so close-fisted a man ; and some even offered to lay bets against its possibility. Mr. Ross accepted the bets, and lost no time in applying to his old brother-in-arms, whom he found immured in his chambers, half-a-dozen flights of steps up Gavinloch's Land, in the Lawnmarket. The conversation commenced with the regular commonplaces ; and for a long time Pitcalnie gave no hint that he was suing in *forma pauperis*. At length he slightly hinted the necessity under which he lay for a trifle of money, and made bold to ask if Mr. Grant could help him in a professional way. 'What a pity, Pitcalnie,' replied the writer, 'you did not apply yesterday ! I sent all the loose money I had to the bank just this forenoon. It is for the present quite beyond redemption.' 'Oh, no matter,' said Pitcalnie, and continued the conversation, as if no such request had been preferred. By and by, after some more topics of an ordinary sort had been discussed, he at length introduced the old subject of the forty-five, upon which both were alike well prepared to speak. A thousand delightful recollections then rushed upon the minds of the two friends, and, in the rising tide of ancient feeling, all distinction of borrower or lender was soon lost. Pitcalnie watched the time when Grant was fully mellowed by the conversation, to bring in a few compliments upon his (Grant's) own particular achievements. He expatiated upon the bravery which his friend had shown at Preston, where he was the first man to go up to the cannon ; on which account he made out that the whole victory, so influential to the Prince's affairs, was owing to no other than Colquhoun Grant, now Writer to the Signet, Gavinloch's Land, Lawnmarket, Edinburgh. He also adverted to the boldness Mr. Grant had displayed in chasing a band of recreant dragoons from the field of battle up to the very gates of Edinburgh Castle ; and farther, upon the dexterity which he subsequently displayed in making his escape from the town. 'Bide a wee,' said Mr. Grant, at this stage of the conversation, 'till I gang best the house.' He immediately returned with the sum Pitcalnie wanted, which he said he now recollects having left over for some time in the shuttle of his private desk. Pitcalnie took the money, continued the conversation for some time longer, and then took an opportunity of departing. When he came back to his friends, every one eagerly asked—'What success?' 'Why there's the money,' said he. 'Where are my bets?' 'Incredible !' every one exclaimed. 'How, in the name of wonder, did you get it out of him ? Did you cast glamour in his een ?' Pitcalnie explained the plan he had taken with his friend, adding, with an expressive wink, 'This forty's made out of the battle of Preston ; but stay a wee, lads ; I've Falkirk i' my pouch yet—by my faith I wadna gie it for auchty.' "

Mr. Grant used to pride himself on the purity and facility with which he could read and speak the English language. How far he was justified in so doing may be inferred from the following anecdote :—He had occasion to be in London as agent in an appeal before the House of Lords ; and an opportunity occurring for the public display of his elocution and correctness of pronunciation, in consequence of a certain paper requiring to be read, Mr. Grant craved and

<sup>1</sup> This assertion seems to be very questionable. The representation of the Ross family was in the Lords Ross—the last of whom died upon the 19th of August 1754, when the title became extinct.

obtained permission to relieve the Clerk of his usual duty. He commenced with great confidence, quite satisfied of the impression he would make upon the Peers assembled. His amazement and vexation may be imagined when the Chancellor (Thurlow), after endeavouring in vain to comprehend what he was uttering, exclaimed—"Mr. Col-co-hon, I will thank you to give that paper to the Clerk, as I do not understand Welsh." The discomfited writer was thunderstruck—he could hardly believe his own ears; but, alas! there was no remedy. He reluctantly surrendered the paper to the Clerk; and his feelings of mortification were not a little increased as he observed the opposite agent (who had come from Edinburgh with him) endeavouring with difficulty to suppress a strong inclination to laugh.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Grant died at Edinburgh on the 2d December 1792. He had several children, mostly daughters, whom he left well provided for, and who were all respectably married. The estates of Kincaird and Petnacree, in Perthshire, which he had purchased, were left to his son, Lieutenant Charles Grant, who, after his unfortunate duel in 1789,<sup>2</sup> retired from the army, and became melancholy and unhappy.

Having sat for his likeness, two excellent miniature Portraits of Mr. Colquhoun Grant were executed by Kay—one of which is possessed by Mr. Maclean, and the other by the Publisher of this work.

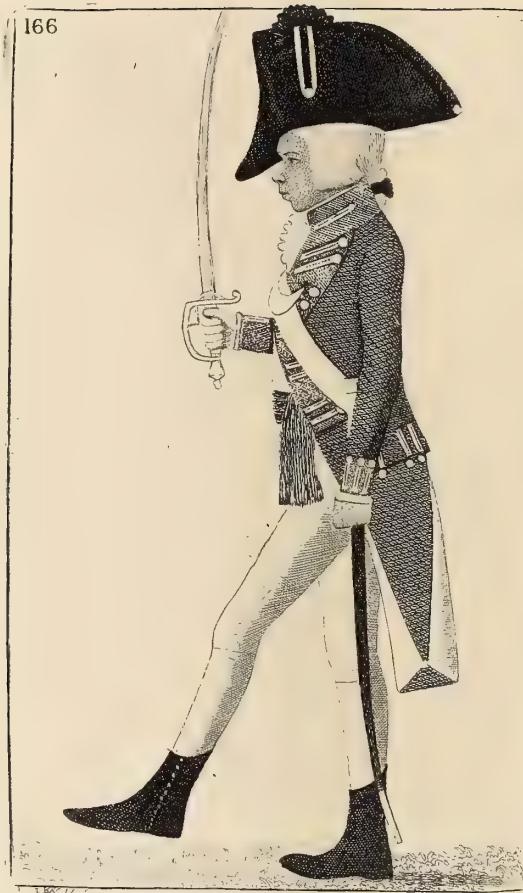
<sup>1</sup> During the discussion on the Scots Reform Bill in Parliament, a very eminent and accomplished Scots M.P., who, like Mr. Colquhoun Grant, had for a long series of years imagined he spoke the English language to perfection, addressed the House in a strain, as he conceived, of impassioned eloquence and convincing argument. What effect it produced upon the auditors we know not, but next day it was announced in some of the public journals that the "———" had addressed the House in a long and no doubt very able speech, which we regret we could not follow, as it was given in broad Scotch."

<sup>2</sup> The following is an account of the duel. Mr. Francis Foulke, of Dublin, the other party, was at the time a student in the University of Edinburgh, and one of the Presidents of the Natural History Society, and of the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh. The affair originated in a petty quarrel about a dog :—

"On Friday, December 18, Lieutenant Grant, with two companions, after having spent the evening together, were going home, when, meeting with Mr. Foulke and his party, a scuffle ensued, and next day Mr. Foulke sent Lieutenant Grant a challenge by Mr. P——. Owing to certain reports relative to Mr. Foulke, Lieutenant Grant did not think himself called upon to accept the challenge, but took the advice of other officers, who were of opinion that Lieutenant Grant ought not to give Mr. Foulke a meeting without satisfying himself of the truth of these reports. In the meantime Mr. P—— had an interview with Lieutenant Grant, who still declined to accept, on which Mr. Foulke posted him in the coffee-houses. Lieutenant Grant having upon inquiry found that Mr. Foulke's character was every way unexceptionable, and that on a late occasion he had behaved with great honour, was willing to give him every satisfaction, and was on his way for that purpose when he met Captain Lundie, who told him that a placard was posted up in the Exchange Coffee-house, couched in the following terms :—'That Charles Grant, of the 55th Regiment, has behaved unbecoming a man of honour and a gentleman, is thus publicly asserted.—P.S. The person who makes this declaration has left his name at the bar.' Along with this was left a slip of paper, on which was written 'FRANCIS FOULKE.' Mr. Grant that evening sent a message by Mr. M——, who understood that the parties were to meet on Tuesday morning at nine o'clock. From some misunderstanding, however, Mr. Foulke and his friend imagined that it was Mr. M—— (who delivered the message), and not Mr. Grant, that he was to fight; and when the gentlemen met in the King's Park, Mr. Foulke expressed his surprise at seeing Mr. Grant, and said that he expected to meet Mr. M—— (who attended as Lieutenant Grant's second). Mr. M—— expressed his willingness to meet Mr. Foulke, but this



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No. CLXVI.

ENSIGN MACDOUGAL,

OF THE HOPETOUN FENCIBLES.

THIS military young gentleman was so very juvenile in his appearance that the boys used to cry, as he passed along the street, "There goes the *Sucking Officer!*" His father, who had been an officer in a Highland regiment during the American war, was paymaster of the Hopetoun Fencibles—an appointment which, as well as the ensigncy of his son, he procured through the influence of Lord Napier.

Young Macdougal in due time became one of the most handsome men in the service. He was six feet one, and well proportioned. He went from the Fencibles into the 30th Foot, with which regiment he served a few years in Ireland. He then joined the 85th; and, with this corps, was at the landing of the Helder, under the Duke of York, in 1799.

While in Ireland, Macdougal accidentally became acquainted with a lady reputed of great wealth and greater expectations, who seemed to regard his attentions with marked interest. The intimacy rapidly increased; and, in an unlucky hour, the military hero, gratified with her apparent preference, was induced to offer his hand, which was accepted. When it was too late, he found he had united himself not to an heiress, or even a woman of good family, but to a female fortune-hunter of humble origin, and utterly penniless. The result of such a connection may be anticipated: quarrels ensued—he beat her, and she returned the compliment. To make bad worse, both parties had recourse to the bottle; and Macdougal became ultimately so habitually intemperate, that he was compelled to leave the army and go abroad, where he died.

was opposed by Mr. Grant. Mr. P—— then said, that as Mr. M—— and Mr. Foulke were not to meet, they would leave the ground, as he did not think Mr. Foulke was obliged to fight Lieutenant Grant by any law of honour. They then parted, Mr. Grant assuring Mr. Foulke that he would post him in return. It was at this time Mr. Grant's intention to lay the matter before the officers of his regiment, that he might be directed by them in what manner it was proper to proceed. But Mr. Foulke, anxious to have this matter settled, and wishing to give Mr. Grant an opportunity of bringing it to a conclusion, sent Mr. Grant a message at twelve o'clock on Tuesday, informing him that he was now ready to meet him. Two o'clock was accordingly appointed. Mr. Grant, attended by his second and surgeon, met Mr. Foulke and his second on the beach to the eastward of Leith. Twelve paces was the distance measured off by the seconds. It was agreed that the parties should exchange pistols, and both fire at the same time. Three shots were exchanged. The last went through the heart of Mr. Foulke, and proved fatal in a few minutes. He endeavoured to speak; but the only expression he made use of was, that 'he hoped he died like a man of honour.' Mr. Grant and his second drove off immediately in a post-chaise, which was in waiting. No opportunity of proposing any accommodation occurred to the gentlemen who attended them to the ground."

## No. CLXVII.

MR. JAMES RAE, DR. WILLIAM LAING,  
AND  
DR. JAMES HAY.

MR. JAMES RAE, the first figure to the left, was born in 1716, and was descended of a family of long standing as landed proprietors in Stirlingshire. Having been educated for the medical profession, he entered the Incorporation of Surgeons in 1747, and was Deacon during the years 1764-5.

Mr. Rae was considered a talented and experienced surgeon, and as such was in extensive and respectable practice. He obtained much reputation as a dentist, and was among the first (if not the very first) in Edinburgh, to rescue that department from the ignorant and unskilful hands in which it was then placed. He occasionally gave private lectures on the diseases of the teeth.

About the year 1766, Mr. Rae began delivering a course of general lectures on surgery, and after having continued these for some time, in 1769 he was requested by the students to deliver Practical Lectures on the Surgical Cases in the Royal Infirmary, which request being highly approved of, both by the Incorporation of Surgeons and by the Managers of the Royal Infirmary, he conducted two separate courses of lectures for a period of several years. He had thus the merit of becoming the founder of that branch of surgical teaching—Clinical Lectures—which has been found so useful in giving a practical knowledge of the science, and for which an academical chair has been provided in the University of Edinburgh, and in many other schools of medicine.

Mr. Rae married, about the year 1742, a daughter of Cant of Thurston, in East-Lothian, a very old and respectable family, formerly Cant of Giles's Grange, (now the property of Sir Thomas Dick Lauder). He died in 1791, leaving one son, the late Mr. John Rae, and three daughters, all of whom were married.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The house in which Mr. Rae lived at the Castle Hill, is the large land with an arched entry, immediately opposite the water-house. It was built of stones from the North Loch, by Dr. Webster, minister of the Old Tolbooth Church—after whose death the premises were occupied as Hogg's banking-office—then by Mr. Rae—and, in 1794, purchased from that gentleman's executors by the Society of Antiquaries. From this period till 1813, the house continued to be occupied by the Society for their museum, and as the residence of their Secretary, Mr. A. Smellie. Previous to his removal to the Castle Hill, Mr. Rae resided in a house at the head of the Old Fleshmarket Close, now occupied by a pawnbroker.





The centre figure, DR. WILLIAM LAING, represented as holding a little girl, his niece, by the hand, was a medical gentleman of good reputation and respectable character. His conciliatory manner and amiable disposition gained him the esteem of a numerous circle of friends. He originally came from Jedburgh. The attitude in which he is portrayed was suggested by the Doctor himself.

As an instance of Dr. Laing's kindly disposition, and the interest which he took in the encouragement of youth, a gentleman well known in the literary circles of Edinburgh, and to whose extensive information the proprietor of this work is much indebted, mentions that he was for several years a *pensioner* of the Doctor, who insisted on his calling every New-year's-day to receive a gift of two shillings and sixpence; and which he obliged our respected friend to accept, even after he had become so old as to be ashamed of the donation.

Dr. Laing lived in Carrubber's Close, where he died 13th March 1789.

The last figure of the group, DR. JAMES HAY, of Hayston, was long well known in this city, where he died on 10th October 1810, in the eighty-sixth year of his age. Having adopted the medical profession, he served as an army-surgeon in 1744, under the Duke of Cumberland in Flanders, where, being a man of shrewdness and observation, the beautiful and well-cultivated fields of that country attracted his notice, and probably gave him a taste for agricultural pursuits, which afterwards proved a source of amusement to him, when he succeeded to his paternal property of Hayston, in Tweeddale. His spirited example and intelligence tended greatly to improve and advance the agriculture of that district.

Notwithstanding these pursuits, Dr. Hay lived chiefly in Edinburgh; and, as was the custom of the time, was a regular frequenter of the meetings of the citizens at the Cross,<sup>1</sup> among whom he was esteemed for his gentlemanly manners and friendly address. It was probably on occasion of some of those accidental greetings that Kay may have seen the parties together whom he has grouped in this Print.

Dr. Hay held the office of Inspector of the Military Ward in the Infirmary of this city till his death. In 1805, on the failure of the heirs-male of the body of Sir James Hay of Smithfield, he was served heir to the baronetcy, as the lineal descendant of Sir James's next brother, and became Sir James Hay. His grandson, Sir John Hay, who for some time represented the county of Peebles in Parliament, was succeeded in the title by his brother, the late Sir Adam Hay, Bart.

At the time the foregoing Print was executed, Dr. Hay lived in New Street, Canongate. He had previously resided in the Potterrow, near which there is a small street named after him.

<sup>1</sup> Edinburgh at that time was confined almost exclusively to the old city. The concourse of the citizens at the Cross served a double purpose. They there met to discuss the topics of the day, and to see their acquaintances, without the labour and waste of forenoon calls. These meetings always took place between the hours of one and two. The Cross was situated in the centre of the principal street of the old town.

No. CLXVIII.

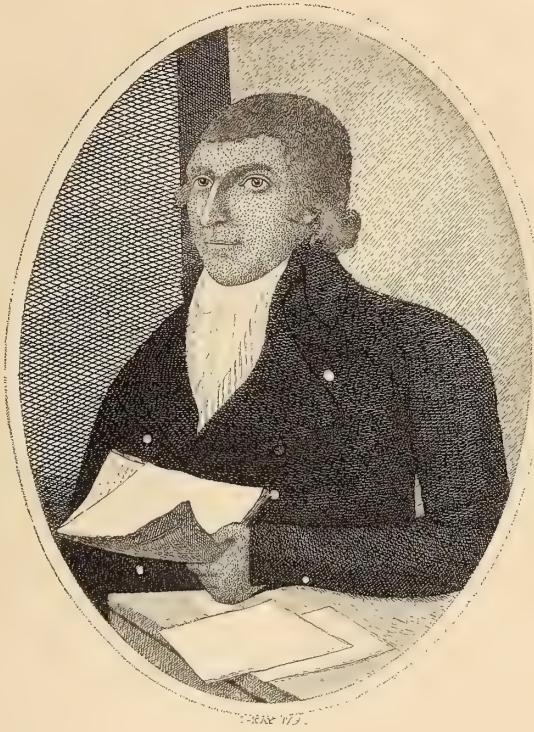
GEORGE MEALMAKER,

AUTHOR OF THE "MORAL AND POLITICAL CATECHISM OF MAN."

GEORGE was an extensive weaver in the Seagate of Dundee, at a period when the giant power of steam had not come into competition with the hand-loom. Unfortunately for himself, he became deeply infected with the political spirit of the times; and in 1796, from his superior capacity acquired the distinction of a leading member of one of those societies of "United Scotsmen," formed at that period in various parts of Scotland, "particularly in the counties of Fife, Forfar, and Perth."

The object of these associations was ostensibly the attainment of annual parliaments and universal suffrage; but they were conducted in a manner unwarrantable by law—by means of signs and oaths of secrecy. Mealmaker was charged not only with having taken the test of secrecy himself, but with having administered the oath to others, and with being otherwise active in promoting the extension of what was then considered an illegal combination. He was also accused of having circulated various "seditious and inflammatory papers or pamphlets," particularly "the Moral and Political Catechism of Man; or, a Dialogue between a Citizen of the World and an Inhabitant of Britain," to which was added a narrative of his arrest, examination, and imprisonment, written by himself, and printed by T. McCleish. Edinburgh, 1797. 12mo.

The trial took place at the High Court of Justiciary, on the 10th January 1798. The pleadings on the relevancy lasted nearly four hours. Mr. Clerk and Mr. White spoke for the prisoner; and the Solicitor-General and Mr. Burnett for the Crown. On proof being led, the existence of the societies—their dividing into other bodies, when the members became numerous—their signs, countersigns, committees of secrecy, etc., as set forth in the indictment, were fully proven by the witnesses, one of whom was committed to prison for prevarication upon oath. After the Lord Advocate had addressed the jury on the part of the Crown, and Mr. Clerk for the prisoner, the evidence was summed up by Lord Eskgrove, when the jury were enclosed a little before four in the morning. Next day they unanimously returned a verdict of guilty; and the pannel was sentenced to fourteen years' transportation. On receiving sentence the prisoner addressed the Court, and blamed the jury for precipitancy, having taken only half an hour to consider the verdict. He said "he was to be another victim to Parliamentary Reform; but he could easily submit, and go to that distant country where others had gone before him. With regard to his wife





and children, they would still be provided for ; and He who feeds the ravens would feed the young Mealmakers." He died in exile.

Mealmaker was the author of the "Address," for which Mr. Thomas Fyshe Palmer was transported in 1793 ; and appeared as a witness, although an involuntary one, at the trial.

In a parody on the well-known Scots song of "Fy, let us a' to the weddin'" (written it is said, by Dr. Drennan), the author of the "Catechism of Man," as well as several of his contemporaries, are alluded to in a strain of tolerable humour. We only remember the following verses :—

" Fy, let us a' to the meetin',  
For mony braw lads will be there,  
Explaining the wrangs o' Great Britain,  
And pointing them out to a hair.  
  
" An' there will be grievances shown,  
That ne'er was kent aught thing about ;  
An' there'll be things set a-going,  
That'll end in the devil, I doubt.  
  
" An' there will be Laing and George Innes,  
The Reverend Neil Douglas I trow,  
Wha rowed frae Dundee in a pinnace,  
An' left the Seceders to rue.  
  
" An' there will be *Geordie Mealmaker*,  
An' twa three lads mair frae the north ;  
An' there will be *Hastie*, the baker,  
An' *Callander's* son o' Craigforth.<sup>1</sup>  
  
" An' there will be Ross,<sup>2</sup> cudgel teacher—  
A fit man for fechtin' is he !  
An' there'll be *Donaldson* the preacher,  
A noble Berean frae Dundee."

<sup>1</sup> A person of considerable notoriety in his day, and son of the antiquary. He left Scotland when young, and remained upwards of twenty years abroad. Upon his succession to the Ardkinglas estate, he dropped the name of Callander, and styled himself Sir James Campbell, Bart., although he had no right whatsoever to the title. While abroad he formed an acquaintance with a Madame Sassen, whom, in a power of attorney, he recognised as his wife ; and subsequently legal proceedings were adopted by her to establish a marriage, but without success. The lady, however, was found entitled to a considerable annuity in the Scotch Courts ; but her reputed husband having appealed to the House of Lords, the judgments in her favour were reversed. Nothing daunted by this discomfiture, Madame Sassen brought various other actions against Sir James, which were only terminated by the death of the parties, which, remarkably enough, occurred within a fortnight of each other. Latterly the lady became as well known in the Parliament House, by her personal superintendence of her cases, as Andrew Nicol, or the famed Peter Peebles. Sir James published memoirs of his own life—a work not remarkable for the accuracy of its facts.

<sup>2</sup> Ross was a pugilist. He and a black man, named Rogerson, another teacher of the art of self-defence, fought in a large room in Blackfriars' Wynd, on the 6th August 1791. After pummeling one another for an hour and a half, Ross gave in, at the same time claiming the battle, in consequence of foul blows. The tickets of admission were three shillings each ; and a large sum was collected. The parties were subsequently fined by the Magistrates, and bound over to keep the peace. A correspondent has favoured us with the following particulars relating to these two doughty heroes :—

" George Ross was originally bred a cloth merchant with the late Thomas Campbell, whose shop was in front of the Royal Exchange. I had the honour of being a pupil of Ross. We began to learn cudgelling with the yard-measures belonging to the shop.

## No. CLXIX.

## TWO TURKS.

OF these two disciples of Mahomet very little is known. They came to Edinburgh in 1784, and brought with them recommendations from gentlemen of rank in different parts of the world. The old man with the long beard was reputed to be the father of the younger person. He was known by the name of MAHOMET, and the son by that of ABRAHAM. They were shoe or slipper-makers by profession; had been great travellers, and at one period, it is said, had aided in some way or other the interests of Great Britain.

In consequence of their letters of recommendation, they received very great attention from the inhabitants of Edinburgh, and, being freemasons, were admitted as brethren into all the different lodges of the city. They were considered to have a very competent knowledge of masonry. To assist them on their way to their native country, they were supplied with money from the funds of most of the lodges. They received sums from several gentlemen, and a present of ten guineas from the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Many inhabitants of Edinburgh distinctly recollect the "Two Turks," and all concur in stating that the "likenesses are admirable."

"As a pitched fight was at that time quite a novelty in Edinburgh, and as I happened to be present at this famous battle, I shall here describe it more minutely. Ross was the first who came into the room; and, after showing his *science* to the assembled multitude, in came Blackie stripped to the skin. Ross, in an impudent tone, asked Rogerson if he had remembered to bring his *coffin* along with him! Rogerson made no reply, but planted a most tremendous blow on his antagonist's head, which was returned by a heavy hit on Rogerson's body, which, however, made no impression. Every succeeding blow which Rogerson received just appeared as if it had been struck on a block of iron. Ross was by much the stoutest-looking man, but wanted wind. The windows of the room having been all nailed down, it was found necessary to break one of the panes, out of which Ross's head was more than once projected to give him breath. After this was found necessary, it was evident that it was all up with him. This was a terrible disappointment to him, as the two teachers, it was understood, had staked their professional success on the issue of the battle.

"I may add, that George Ross had a decided taste for poetry. I have seen many little pieces of his very prettily conceived.

"Rogerson, the black, was a sort of an original. He had got a boy into his service as footman; and, on being asked how the lad was coming on, said, 'He is a d—d clever boy—he and I sometimes drink a bottle of *whisky* together.' Some time after he got married; and he said to some of his acquaintances, 'My wife, thank God, is a great favourite. A gentleman, t'other day, gave her a present of a *couple of guineas*.' After the birth of a son, he never left his house in the morning without giving the following caution to his wife:—'Now, remember if anything happen to de leetle infant when I'm away, I will assuredly *run you through de body*.'"

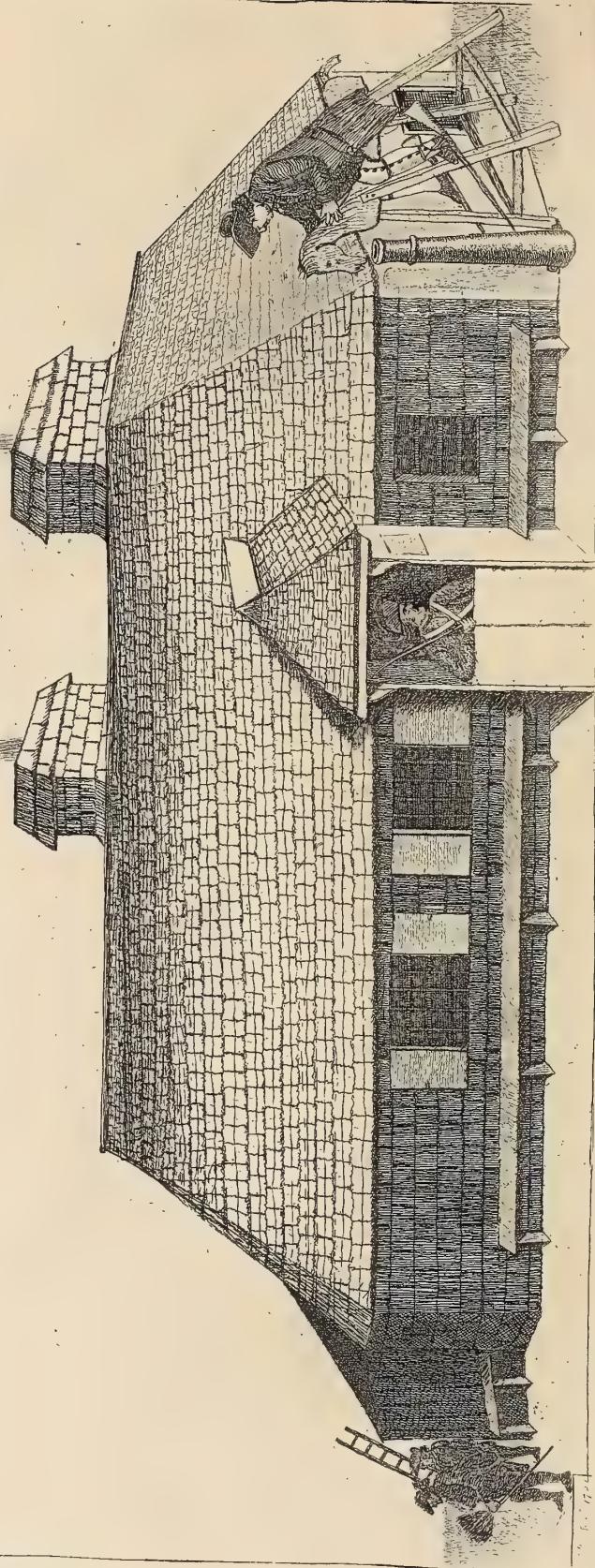
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The old CITY GUARD of EDINBURGH.



No. CLXX.

### THE CITY GUARD-HOUSE.

#### CORPORAL JOHN DHU.

THIS dingy, mean-looking edifice, built for the accommodation of the City-Guard, probably towards the close of the seventeenth, or beginning of the last century, was situated in the High Street, opposite the shop now occupied by Mr. Ritchie, stationer, about two hundred yards east of the Cross.<sup>1</sup> It was a slated building, one storey in height, and consisted of four apartments. On the west and south-west corner was the Captain's Room; and adjoining, on the north, was a place for prisoners, called the Burghers' Room." In the centre was the common hall; and, on the east, the apartment devoted to the city chimney-sweepers, who were called "tron men"—two figures of whom will be observed in the engraving. The extreme length of the structure, from east to west, was seventy feet, and the breadth forty over the walls. The floor, with the exception of the Captain's Room, was composed of flags, under which was a vaulted cell, called the "Black Hole," where coals for the use of the Guard-House were kept, and into which refractory prisoners were put.

The wooden mare at the west end of the building was placed there for the purpose of punishing such soldiers as might be found guilty of misdemeanours. The delinquent, with a gun tied to each foot, was mounted for a certain period proportioned to the extent of his offence, and exposed to the gaze and derision of the populace, who sometimes were not idle spectators of the exhibition. The figure bestriding the "wooden mare" is merely intended to represent the nature of the punishment.

Over the half-door of the Guard-House will be distinguished the well-known JOHN DHU. John, who was a corporal of the Guard, is here in the position which he daily occupied, ready to receive, with a "Highland curse," whoever was unfortunate enough to be committed to his surveillance. The rank of the offender made no difference—rich and poor met with the same reception. A chronicle of the *beaux* and *belles* who found a night's shelter within its walls would no doubt be gratifying to the lovers of antiquated scandal.

<sup>1</sup> The old Market-Cross, removed in 1756, when the Royal Exchange was finished, was an octagonal building of sixteen feet diameter, and about fifteen feet high. At each angle was an Ionic pillar, from the top of which a species of Gothic bastion projected; and between the columns were modern arches. Besides the town's arms, the edifice was ornamented with various devices; and from the platform rose a column, consisting of one stone, upwards of twenty feet high, and of eighteen inches diameter, spangled with thistles, and adorned with a Corinthian capital, upon the top of which was a unicorn. At what period the Cross was originally erected is not known. It was rebuilt in 1617; and the column, or obelisk, which had previously existed beyond the memory of man, was carefully preserved and re-erected within the railing of the High Church.

The Guard-House, situated in the very centre of the main street, was unquestionably both an eye-sore and an inconvenience. For many years it had been regarded as a nuisance ; and Fergusson merely expresses the general feeling when he says, in the name of the *Causey* :—

“ Wad it not fret the hardest stane,  
Beneath the Luckenbooths to grane ?  
Though magistrates the Cross discard,  
It mak’sna when they leave the Guard—  
*A lumbersome an’ stinkin’ biggin’*—  
That rides the sairest on my riggin.”<sup>1</sup>

In 1785, it was resolved that the obnoxious building should cease to exist ; and, in consequence, the City-Guard took up their rendezvous in the New Assembly Room, in what is now called the Commercial Bank Close.<sup>2</sup> The proprietors of that portion of the city, alarmed at the proximity of the “ Town Rats,” took a protest, and presented a bill of suspension on the subject. The following notice of this proceeding occurs in the *Scots Magazine* :—

“ On Saturday, Nov. 19 (1785), a bill of suspension was presented to the Court of Session, in name of the proprietors of houses in the New Assembly Close, Edinburgh, praying for an interdict against the Magistrates removing the City-Guard to the New Assembly Room, as it would prove an intolerable nuisance to the inhabitants of that close, as well as deteriorate the property of the proprietors. The Hon. Henry Erskine was heard on the part of the suspenders, and Mr. George Buchan Hepburn for the Magistrates. After some reasoning by the Court, their lordships, on account of the present situation of the High Street, and that the Assembly Room was only meant to be a temporary Guard-House, were pleased to refuse the bill. They at the same time were of opinion, that after taking a trial, if the inhabitants should consider it as great a nuisance as they did at present, they should be at liberty to present another bill of suspension, when their lordships would enter more minutely into the merits of the cause. In the afternoon the workmen began to pull down the Guard-House.”

Thus, in 1785, the City Guard-House was razed to the ground. The soldiers of the Guard continued only for a limited period to occupy the New Assembly Room, premises in the Luckenbooths having been finally appropriated for their use.

<sup>1</sup> “ Mutual Complaint of the Plainstanes and Causey.”

<sup>2</sup> It was termed the New Assembly Close until the Commercial Bank occupied the premises.

## NOTES TO VOL. I.

BY PROFESSOR DANIEL WILSON,

AUTHOR OF ‘MEMORIALS OF EDINBURGH IN THE OLDEN TIME,’ ETC. ETC.



Page 7, JAMIE DUFF.

Strictly speaking, Widow Duff's lodging was in the College Wynd ; though, as it was at the foot of the wynd, its windows may have looked into the Cowgate. Scott, whose birthplace was in the same wynd, has introduced Jamie Duff in “Guy Mannering,” in attendance on the funeral of Mrs. Margaret Bertram of Singleside, to the family burial-place in the Greyfriars' Churchyard.

Page 18, ARNOT'S RESIDENCE.

Mr. Arnot, according to information communicated to me, resided for a time on the south side of the Canongate, immediately below St. Mary's Wynd. From thence he removed to the New Town, where he occupied a floor in South St. Andrew Street—the probable scene of the above occurrence.

Page 20, LORD MONBODDO.

An allusion will be found in Lord Cockburn's *Memorials of his Time* to the suppers of Lord Monboddo as the most Attic of his day. Burns enjoyed them while in Edinburgh, and was greatly charmed by the beauty of his daughter Eliza, of whom he makes special note in his “Address to Edinburgh,” “Thy daughters bright thy walks adorn,” etc. See the poem, and also Burns's letter to Chalmers, in which he says—“Fair B—— is the heavenly Miss Burnet, daughter to Lord Monboddo, at whose house I have had the honour to be more than once,” etc. etc. See also the poet's “Elegy” on her premature death from consumption.

Page 22, LORD GARDENSTONE.

In *The Court of Session Garland*, by James Boswell, notices of this and others of the Judges will be found. It is reprinted by Robert Chambers in his *Traditions*, with notes of his own.

Page 30, Dr. WEBSTER.

Dr. Webster was one of the rare exceptions to Dr. Samuel Johnson's antipathy to a Scotsman. Brown's Court, Castle Hill, where he entertained the lexicographer, bore in his day the name of Webster's Close.—*Vide* Dr. Johnson's letters to him, relative to his “Journey to the Western Islands.”

Page 37, MARIONVILLE.

Marionville is, or was, a handsome old-fashioned house near Restalrig, which originally bore the popular name of “Lappet Ha'” owing to its having been built by a fashionable milliner of Auld Reekie with the proceeds of her professional services among the grandes of the old closes and wynds.

Page 54, Dr. BLACK.

Dr. Black's earlier residence was in the College Wynd, not far from the house in which Sir Walter Scott was born, and in the immediate vicinity of the College.

## NOTES TO VOL. I.

### Page 66, Dr. CARLYLE.

For the actual facts regarding Carlyle's friendship with Home, *vide* Dr. Carlyle's *Autobiography*. He attended two rehearsals along with the author, Lord Elibank, Dr. Ferguson, and David Hume, at the old Canongate theatre, then under the management of Captain Digges, a well-born profligate, who had been dismissed the army, it was said, as a poltroon. He performed Young Douglas, and Mrs. Ward, Lady Randolph. The friends of Home were accustomed to meet at a tavern within the Abbey Sanctuary, and out of this originated the Griskin Club, one of the old convivial clubs of Edinburgh.

### Page 72, CROCHALLAN CLUB.

For an account of the Club, *vide* Ker's *Life of Smellie*, by whom Burns was introduced to the Club. See the poet's impromptu on Smellie; and also his addenda to the old song of "Rattlin' roarin' Willie," in both of which the Crochallan Club is referred to.

### Page 117, Mr. WOODS.

Woods the actor was a special friend of the poet Fergusson. *Vide* "My Last Will:"

"To thee, whose genius can provoke  
Thy passions to the bowl or sock;  
For love to thee, Woods, and the Nine,  
Be my immortal Shakespeare thine," etc.

An Address, in verse, "To Mr. R. Fergusson, on his recovery from severe depression of spirits," by Mr. Woods, appeared originally in the *Caledonian Mercury*, July 9, 1774, and was appended to the first edition of Fergusson's Poems, 1807.

### Page 123, DR. BLAIR.

"The great Dr. Blair used to walk in a sort of state, with gown and wig, from his house in Argyle Square, down the Horse Wynd, up the Old Fishmarket Close, and so to the High Church, every Sunday forenoon when he went to preach. His style of walking was very pompous, though perhaps not affected."—*Vide Chambers's Traditions*.

### Page 127, ERSKINE AND THE PHYSICIANS' HALL.

It is almost necessary to note here that the Physicians' Hall, a somewhat tasteful building, with a portico of Corinthian columns, was one of the prized architectural features of the New Town in its early days. It was erected in 1775; and as it stood opposite St. Andrew's Church, the two porticos would have harmonised well in a general view of the street, had not the Physicians' Hall been thrown back behind the general line of the street. The site is now occupied by the much more imposing building of the Commercial Bank.

### Page 160, REV. JOHN M'LURE.

Dr. Robert Chambers describes this same character in his *Traditions of Edinburgh*, but he gives him the name of Andrew M'Lure. He lived "in the second flat of a house at the head of Bell's Wynd, fronting the southern wall of the Old Tolbooth, and next door to the Baijen Hole." This, Dr. Chambers states, was a celebrated baker's shop, named in Peter Williamson's Directory for 1784 as *Bagon* Hole; but he says "the origin of the word defies all research." The word, however, is very significant. The *Bejauni* were the freshmen, or students of the first year in the old universities. In Aberdeen the freshman is still called a *Bejeant*, as in Paris he was a *Béjaune*, i.e. a ninny, in the fourteenth century. No doubt the Baijen Hole was a favourite resort of the younger students who had not yet lost a schoolboy's love for gib, candy, etc. Old High School boys will remember Brown's Baijen Hole, in the old High School Wynd, the reputation of which survived till the desertion of the Old High School Yards for the Calton Hill.

## NOTES TO VOL. I.

### Page 196, HOPETOUN FAMILY.

John de Hope came to Edinburgh in the retinue of the Princess Magdalen, the first Queen of James V., in 1537. His house stood—possibly still stands—in Bailie Fife's Close, near Knox's house, with the name *Johne Hope* cut in bold characters over the doorway, and his shield and initials on the lowest crowstep. His son Edward's mansion stood in Todd's Close, adjoining that of the Queen Regent Mary de Guise, till its demolition in 1845. The late Mr. C. K. Sharpe had some fine carved oaken screen-work from this house.

### Page 208, BUFFON AND SMELLIE.

It is said that upon Buffon and Smellie meeting, they found to their mutual surprise that they were unintelligible to each other. Smellie had mastered the French language for himself, and pronounced it according to its orthography, with all the amplitude of Scottish gutturals and broad vowels, to the astonishment of the great naturalist, who could not guess in what strange language he was addressed !

### Page 208, MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.

It was the fashion at that date to mingle with the legitimate contents of an archæological museum, objects of natural history. It may possibly be worth noticing that all such were subsequently handed over to the Royal Society. Lectures on Natural History, delivered at the request of the Society of Antiquaries, would now seem ridiculous.

### Page 213, Right Hon. LORD ADAM GORDON.

The song “For Lack of Gold” was composed by Dr. Austin, the fashionable physician in Edinburgh about a century ago. He was the accepted lover of Miss Jane Drummond, and had celebrated her charms in a song, beginning, “Bonnie Jeannie Drummond, she towers aboon them a.” But the rank and title of Duchess, though secured by weding a Duke, old and unattractive, tempted the fickle beauty. She is said to have given him a hint that she remembered her old troth on the death of the Duke, but the Doctor made no response, and soon after wedded a daughter of Lord Sempill.

### Page 223, ORLANDO HART AND KING CRISPIN.

It was long the annual custom for the Corporation of Cordiners or Shoemakers to inaugurate a king of the craft, and escort him through the town in grand procession on the 25th of October, St. Crispin’s Day. It was got up in imposing style, and attracted spectators from all the surrounding villages. The hall of the Canongate shoemakers was latterly the favourite place of rendezvous. It stood in Little Jack’s Close, with their arms and the date 1682 over the entrance. William Sawers, bootmaker, was actually crowned as King Crispin on the 25th October 1820, in the Picture Gallery of Holyrood Palace ! The cost of such regal displays finally brought the corporation to beggary.

### Page 231, THOMAS NEIL and the Song “Sweet sir, for your courtesie.”

This well-known song is to be found in Johnson’s *Scots Musical Museum*. The tune is more ancient, and occurs in the Skene MS., *cir.* 1630. The song itself was introduced by Ramsay into his *Tea-Table Miscellany*, 1724. The song, in its present version, is probably of Aberdeen origin. Dr. Robert Chambers supposes the Bass of Inverury to be referred to in the first stanza. It cannot refer to the Bass Rock. Stanza three should read “a pair of *sheen*”—the true Aberdonian pronunciation, and there meant to rhyme with Aberdeen.

## NOTES TO VOL. I.

### Page 257, DEACON BRODIE AND THE EXCISE OFFICE.

The Excise Office was then in Chessells' Court, Canongate. In the reign of Charles II. it stood a little below John Knox's house, just within the Nether Bow Port. From thence it was removed to a fine old building in the Cowgate, on the site of the southern arches of George IV. Bridge, originally the mansion of the Earl of Haddington, the favourite of James I. From this it was transferred to Chessells' Court in 1772, and then to the fine mansion of Sir Lawrence Dundas in St. Andrew Square, now the Royal Bank of Scotland. Brodie's own house was in the Lawnmarket, a little below the West Bow, styled after him Brodie's Close.

### Page 281, Dr. ALEXANDER MONRO.

Among the earliest Scottish photograph portraits, taken with paper negatives, by the late D. O. Hill, R.S.A., is a very characteristic photograph of Dr. Alexander Monro *Tertius*.

### Page 287, EARL OF BUCHAN'S HOUSE.

The Earl of Buchan's house was at the north-east corner of St. Andrew Square, with its east windows on North St. Andrew Street. There the Society of Antiquaries was originated ; and there the eccentric nobleman figured in such scenes as that of Apollo and the Muses, described in the following note.

### Page 305, HADDO'S HOLE.

The Little Kirk, or Haddo's Hole, was the north-west division of Old St. Giles's Church. Until near the close of last century it was entered through a beautiful Norman porch, the last remains of the earliest structure ; and over this was a chamber to which Maitland gives the name of the Priest's Prison. In this apartment Sir John Gordon of Haddo was imprisoned in 1644, previous to his trial, and beheading by the Maiden. Hence the name of Haddo's Hole.

### Page 306, MUIR of Huntershill and his MONUMENT.

The monument referred to as in prospect was at length successfully raised in spite of the proceedings which interdicted its erection for a time, and wasted the funds in law proceedings ; thereby reducing the scheme to the poor obelisk now in the Old Calton Burying-ground.

### Page 315, LORD PRESIDENT BLAIR AND LORD MELVILLE.

The houses referred to in the note were, it is presumed, in Brown Square. Lord Melville occupied the most westerly house on the north side of the square. The next house was occupied for a time by Sir Ilay Campbell, the predecessor of Lord President Blair. The locality was conveniently near the Parliament House, with easy access by the Cowgate and Old Parliament Stairs. Hence the square was a favourite resort of the Judges. Lord Justice-Clerk Miller was succeeded in the centre house on the same side by his son, Lord Glenlee, who continued to occupy it long after the general fashionable migration to the New Town.

### Page 417, M'GOWAN'S MUSEUM.

Pennant, in his *Second Tour*, gives some account of the contents of Mr. John Macguan's "small but select private cabinet." Some of the objects found in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh appear to have possessed considerable local interest ; and especially a fine Roman bronze, representing a beautiful Naiad, with a wine-vat on her head, and a small satyr in one arm.

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